

# THE GATEWAY

volume C number 32 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, february 2, 2010



GETTING INVOLVED Donna Brazile has taken part in every American presidential election campaign from 1976–2000.

STEFFI ROSKOPF

## I-Week keynote stresses immediacy for action

SEAN STEELS  
Senior News Editor

Donna Brazile might not hail from any of the exotic locations usually associated with the University of Alberta's International Week. In fact, the only thing exotic about the New Orleans native and lifelong political activist might be her pleasant southern drawl, and a penchant to mention "gumbo" more than once in a speech.

me to get involved in American politics," she said.

Although catering to a foreign crowd at an event to showcase international diversity, her speech was sparse on the differences dividing humankind. She opted instead to concentrate on the similarities between cultures, beginning cryptically with a reference to the holiday of Thanksgiving shared between America and Canada.

**"Nothing happens to humankind until it first happens in the human mind — nothing"**

**DONNA BRAZILE**  
INTERNATIONAL WEEK KEYNOTE

But the topic of her keynote speech — Civic Engagement: Creating Lasting Change — which kicked off International Week on Monday, might never have seen a geopolitical climate giving it more relevance.

"Think now for a moment with me. Nothing happens to humankind until it first happens in the human mind — nothing. No symphony is ever composed until the plans are developed in the mind," she said.

Brazile's own involvement with politics and grassroots movements began at the tender age of eight, when, in New Orleans, she became active in local politics after finding a campaign that would take someone so young.

"I didn't want to wait until I turned 18; I didn't want permission. I wanted to start right then and there. I found one campaign that would ultimately become the campaign that motivated

"We are the only two nations in the world with such a holiday," she noted.

"It's a unique day we recognize to give thanks. We get our families together, we watch television, we eat food."

She recounted her own Thanksgiving dinners in New Orleans, at which her family was forced to run through a diverse assortment of dishes — first Cajun, then American, and finally African — to complete the holiday in their own international spirit.

"By the time it was over, we ate the world," she said.

But Brazile had more to discuss than the merits of a turkey dinner. She also touched on the important topic stirring political movement and dialogue.

Immediacy and persistence were high on her list of virtues for successfully launching grassroots movements.

PLEASE SEE **BRAZILE** ♦ PAGE 3

## U of A loans out rough diamond collection to Royal Alberta Museum

MAGGIE EDMONDS  
News Writer

A new exhibit at the Royal Alberta Museum has a unique connection to Edmonton, as the University of Alberta has contributed diamonds from its own Mineralogy and Petrology Museum to enhance the show while on display in the city.

"Diamonds," a travelling exhibit originating from Ontario, offers the public the opportunity to explore not only exquisite and unique diamonds, but also learn about the science behind the mineral.

Melissa Bowerman, assistant curator for the Royal Alberta Museum and a U of A graduate, said that the Royal Alberta Museum approached the U of A for additional materials as they wanted to "add a bit of sparkle" to the exhibit.

"This is the finest exhibit of rough diamonds you'll be seeing in North America," Bowerman said.

The public's perception of the value of diamonds has led the exhibit to host extensive security.

"Diamonds have a certain mystique or allure," Bowerman explained, noting that this is one of the most secure shows the Royal Alberta Museum has seen in recent years.

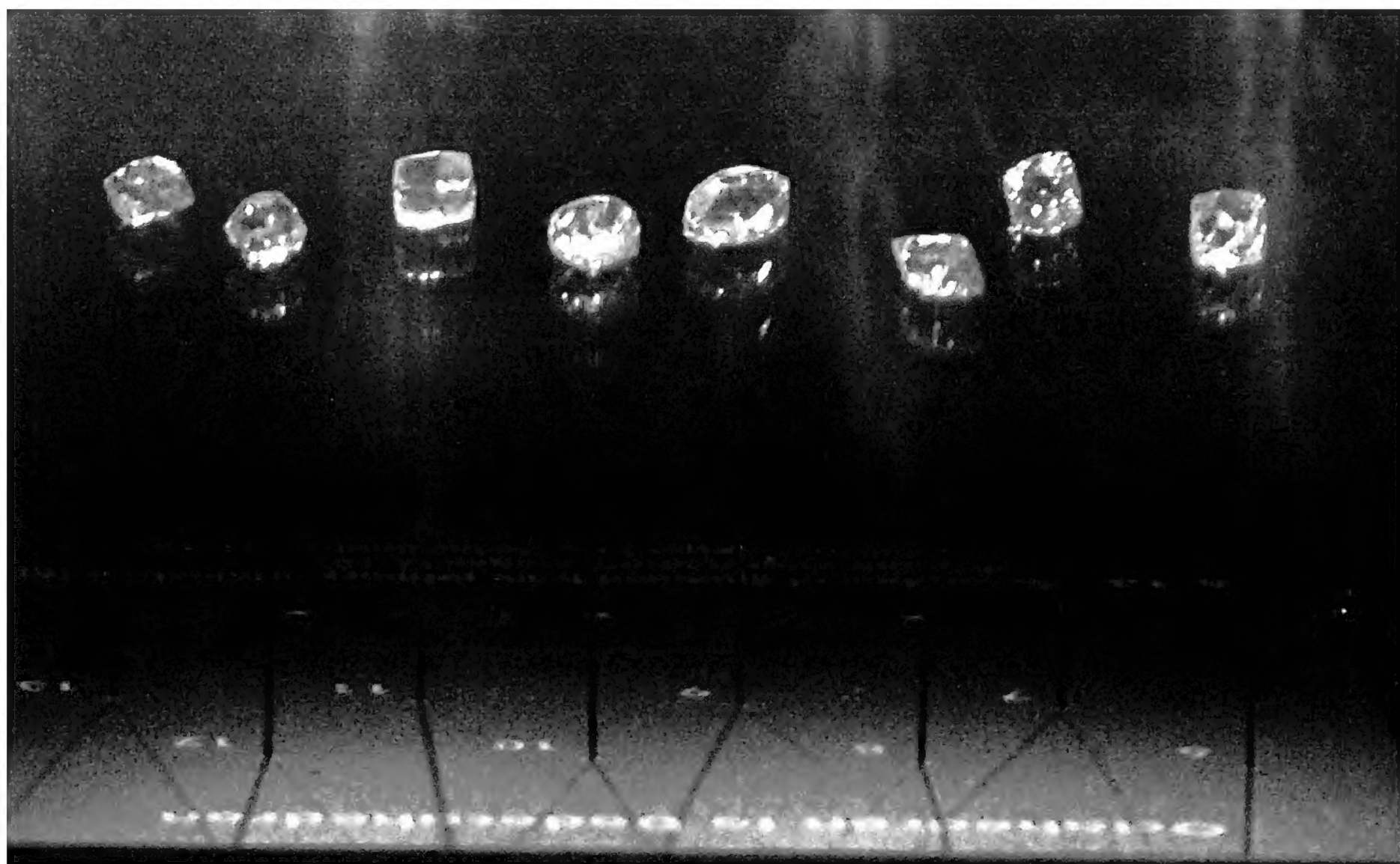
Thomas Stachel, Professor of Geology at the U of A and the Canadian Research Chair in Diamonds, received a request from Bowerman to loan the University's diamond display to the museum for this exhibit.

The collection from the University was assembled with the intention of displaying a wide variety of properties of diamonds, including colour, crystal shapes, surface features, and inclusions.

The display also contains a small section regarding industrial diamonds.

"The beauty of [the] collection does not lie in any individual piece," Stachel emphasized.

PLEASE SEE **DIAMONDS** ♦ PAGE 4



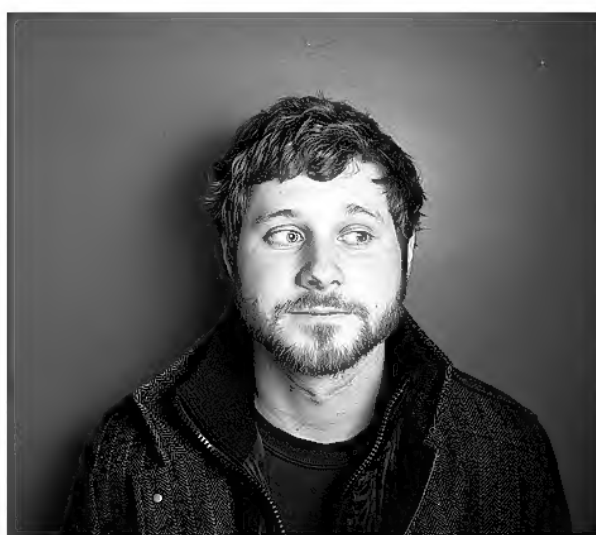
SAM BROOKS

A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND U of A diamonds will be on display at the RA museum until March 21.

## Mental sadness

The *Gateway* looks at the reasoning and remedies behind stress-related depression in postsecondary students.

FEATURE, PAGE 6



## Robot radness

Dan Mangan might be a musician by day, but that's not to say his nights aren't full of robotic romance.

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## THE GATEWAY

www.thegatewayonline.ca

tuesday, february 2, 2010  
volume C number 32Published since november 21, 1910  
Circulation 10,000  
ISSN 0845-356XSuite 3-04  
Students' Union Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168  
Fax 780.492.6665  
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700  
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

## editorialstaff

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Mike Kendrick  
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168**MANAGING EDITOR** Nick Frost  
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Sean Steels  
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Jonathan Taves  
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664**OPINION EDITOR** David Johnston  
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Sarah Stead  
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052**SPORTS EDITOR** Evan Daum  
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652**PHOTO EDITOR** Pete Yee  
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Kelsey Tanasiuk  
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663**ONLINE EDITOR** Lucas Wagner  
online@gateway.ualberta.ca | 248.1509

## businessstaff

**BUSINESS MANAGER** Asia Szkudlarek  
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Czialek  
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Lisa Lunn  
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647**CIRCULATION PAL** Kristyn Springall  
**CIRCULATION PAL** Brendan Fairbridge  
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca

THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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## contributors

Gabby Riches, Madeline Smith, Laryssa Szmielsky, Joel Rackel, Naomi Williams, Elliot Goodine, Jonn Kmech, Nathan Liewicki, Bren Cargill, Dan McKechnie, Maggie Edmonds, Simon Yackulic, Janna Deng, Hylie Chan, Angela Cheung, Benjamin Nay, Jeff Martin, Bobby Williamson, Ross Vincent, Tyler Dawson, Aaron Yeo, Fish Griukowsky, Steffi Rosskopf, Leanne Fong, Sam Brooks, Dan McKechnie

## Second debate on God attracts hundreds of students

**DAN MCKECHNIE**  
News Staff

The Myer Horowitz Theatre was host to a centuries-old debate on January 28, as "Does God Exist II" was presented by the University of Alberta Atheist and Agnostic Society and the U of A chapter of Campus for Christ.

Over 600 students packed the theatre, eager to hear the discussion about the nature of morality. The debate asked if morality needed to originate from a god, or some other outside organizing force.

On the "no" side was Massimo Pigliucci, the chair of philosophy at Lehman College, part of the City University of New York. He was contracted through the Student Secular Alliance. Pigliucci has published a number of books discussing creationism, rationalism, and evolution.

Arguing for "yes," Michael Horner is an anthropologist who tours Canadian campuses to "promote and defend Christianity," according to his website. He is affiliated with Campus Crusade for Christ, Campus for Christ's governing body. Horner is the author of a number of articles relating to Christian philosophy.

Pigliucci presented an argument against objective morality centering on a Socratic dialogue referred to as "Euthyphro's dilemma": is something moral because God says so, or does God approve of something because it is moral?

Pigliucci claimed that the first case

implied a "might makes right" scenario, which, according to him, does not bear out through history. The second case, Pigliucci said, implied that morality existed separate from God and thereby was not dependent on him.

During his opening arguments, Horner worked from the premise that objective moral principles exist independent of humanity, and on the basis of this assumption, argued that there must be something larger than humanity from whence morality originates.

"Objective moral principles are true, independent of anyone's opinion," he said.

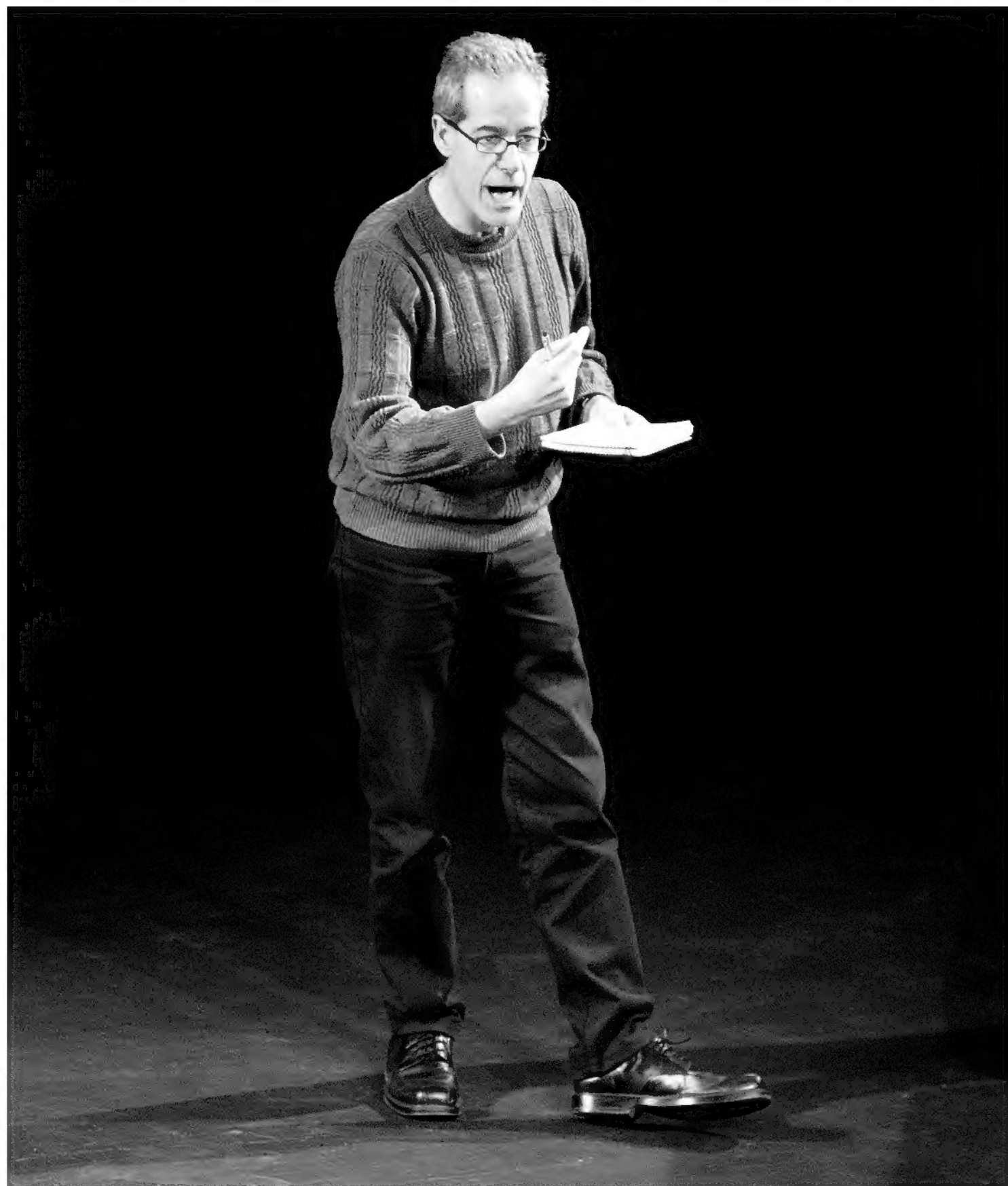
Horner argued that because we intuit, with great consistency, that things like rape and murder are wrong, there must be some manner of universal moral principle.

The debate became heated when the speakers were allowed to speak freely, with both Pigliucci and Horner talking over one another and throwing arguments and rebuttals back and forth.

This marked a dramatic change from the sedate pace of the debate up to that point. There was much applause for each speaker in turn as they brought new arguments to bear.

UAAA administrator Farid Iskander said he would like to see similar topics discussed more often.

"While the debate about morality started as early as Socrates, nowadays it's not discussed nearly as much as it



DAN MCKECHNIE

**CALL TO RATIONALITY** Pigliucci argues on the Horowitz stage last Thursday.

should [be]," Iskander said, adding that the goal of the debate is to "engage people in thinking about a topic that is important."

Melanie Joy, a Campus For Christ member involved in organizing the debate, also touched on that same

sentiment.

"I hope that from the arguments presented, and the discussions following between friends, that students will have their ideas challenged, and refined," she said, adding that another debate may take place next year.

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Sean Steels and Sam Brooks*As you may be aware, Alberta is considering nuclear power as an energy source.*  
**Do you think this is an effective alternative to fossil fuels?****Yolanda Pyrdol**  
Science II**Stephanie Frazer**  
Arts IV**Thomas Houghton**  
Arts III**Rose-Eva Forgues**  
Arts I

It's a toss up. With fossil fuels, there's a lot of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. With tailing ponds, and all the waste that's created behind the use of fossil fuels, I think it's just devastating on our planet. With nuclear power, though, storage of waste is a big issue, and leakage is a problem and can be much more devastating than fossil fuel use. It's a very tough call.

Yes, we're gonna run out of fossil fuels eventually. Nuclear power might explode, but — [*Is that not a concern for you?*] No, not really.

I would say yes, because we're running out of fossil fuels as a source of energy. We need to find a source of energy. Nuclear meltdowns are always a concern, but the States are a big advocate of nuclear power, so maybe we should look into it. But I wouldn't get into it without all the proper research.

I think there are alternatives that are much better than both of those, like solar or wind power. I don't think either of those are a direction we should move in. Fossil fuels create a lot of waste and use water. And we still haven't found out how to get rid of nuclear waste. Solar and wind power have no by-products.

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# 25th International Week going where no week has gone before



SAMBROOKS

**STANDING ALONE** An I-Week display in Rutherford library emphasizes discovery and creation during times of hardship.

**SIMON YACKULIC**  
News Staff

With an appropriately diverse array of global topics and presentations, it may be hard to pinpoint just one theme running through this year's International Week, which takes place across the University of Alberta campus from February 1–5. But when you consider the name of this year's festival — *To Boldly Go: Charting our Common Future* — alongside associated talks and presentations such as APIRG's 2010 Resource Fair: Rethink Your Prime Directive, a pattern begins to emerge.

"Well, yes, there is a bit of a *Star Trek* theme this year," joked Eilis Pourbaix, Global Education Coordinator for University of Alberta International. "I think if you want to think of it in the context of International Week, you can think of how we're all aboard this spaceship together, and we all have an interest in where it's going.

"We are all interconnected. And I think that we can use this opportunity to not only show people how they can help — with all the student groups that are taking part — but why they should care."

International Week is in its 25th year at the U of A. This year's lineup of events will offer students the opportunity to make bannock, listen to Japanese

haiku, and check out a National Film Board documentary every night of the festival. The Trekkie theme prevails in the name of a number of seminars, such as "To Boldly Develop Your Career: Volunteer and Work Abroad" on Thursday evening, where speakers will discuss international employment opportunities.

**"We can use this opportunity to not only show people how they can help — with all the student groups that are taking part — but why they should care."**

**EILIS POURBAIX**  
GLOBAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR,  
U OF A INTERNATIONAL

"We want people to get involved, care about the world around them, and get engaged — reading papers and caring about what's out there," Pourbaix explained.

If the festival's purpose is to give attendees a glimpse of the vibrant world outside of Canada's borders, it started off on an exciting note Monday — students were engaged by

a panel of three speakers who were present during pivotal moments of youth activism across the globe. Peter Midgley, currently a senior editor with University of Alberta Press, experienced the fight against apartheid in 1980s South Africa. U of A Associate Professor Ryan Dunch worked in Hong Kong in 1989 (the year of the Tiananmen Square Massacre) and Vitaliy Shyyan, who is currently involved with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, spoke about youth participation in the Orange Revolution.

Diana Keto, the communications co-ordinator for International Week, emphasized that a main goal of the event is to educate students about the importance of civic engagement while drawing awareness to various global causes.

As such, one major yardstick that the organizers can use to determine the success of the week is to assess the participation of the overall student body — no tricorder is needed to observe the popularity of the events that are now spread out across campus.

"Last year we had around 7,200 people involved, and we're looking to top that this year," Keto predicted.

"We have tons of support this year; over 200 volunteers are going to be helping us pull this all together."

## Brazile gives activism 'tip list' at keynote

**BRAZILE** ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brazile's list included getting involved, beginning from where you are, not waiting for an invitation, and giving thought to the issues at hand.

She pointed to Alberta's own burgeoning growth as an ideal climate for political discourse that could change the direction of the future of the province.

"There is truly a freedom to create here in Alberta. Part of the point of International Week is to encourage attendees to get involved and make a difference," she elaborated.

"This week, this time is tailor-made for you to do that, to believe in something greater than yourselves, to make lasting change, and to go

boldly forward, believing that we can stir change up together."

The need for persistence in such endeavours was not lost on Brazile, who conceded that the challenges associated with such monumental tasks as social change could be intimidating for any one individual.

She cautioned that those attempting such movements would not only need persistence, but a creative mindset and a willingness to apply oneself to any problem with steadfast mental commitment.

"The mind is a wonderful instrument. I urge you to think with it, to use it. That's what it's here for. Solve engagement problems with it, solve apathy with it. Develop the plan and

have the courage to follow through," she said.

And despite the myriad of other factors brought up in her speech, Brazile concluded on a note of faith not in political systems, global co-operation, or even the power of ideas.

She instead placed her trust in those inspired enough to drive such social movements, right down to the individual.

"History has often swung in a new direction because of an individual," she said. "We know that a single vote sometimes in Parliament or under Congress can change lives [...] It's simply good to know that throughout history, one person has always made a difference."

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## U of A researcher finds obesity-prone genes one among many weight factors

JANNA DENG  
News Writer

Obesity is often described in epidemic proportions amongst North Americans, and is associated with poor health and laziness. But David Pierce, a researcher at the University of Alberta in the Department of Sociology, has found that obesity might be a genetic property that at one time in our history would have been highly beneficial.

In lab testing of rats under environments of food shortage, those with an obesity-prone genotype last over twice as long.

Even when starting at similar weight with similar amount of exercise, the obesity-prone rats are able to store larger fat reserves from the same amount of food, and different biochemical regulation.

Answering the question of why such a gene for obesity would survive in a population considering its negative effect on individuals in modern society, Pierce's study appears to be the first to address the issue of genetic-related obesity as a beneficial trait.

Within human context, another popular theory exists that the obesity gene is not selected favourable by an environment, but a result of "genetic drift from coming into contact with modern food" — a statement that implies the gene mutated as a result of the changes in our diet.

Pierce's experiment supports the idea that obesity-prone genes allow for individuals to gain more weight from the same amount of food, exercise, and starting point as lean-prone counterparts.

Obesity is not an issue of overeating or lack of exercise, but portion size and lifestyle changes.

What does that mean for humans? Pierce doesn't mean to imply genetics are responsible.



DANIELLE JENSON

**QUESTION OF GENES** Pierce says that at one time obese genes were beneficial.

"It doesn't just depend on what you bring on from your genetic history, or on feeding environment; they interact with another to produce the effect. You can modify genotype or you can modify environment, both will provide changes in susceptibility to obesity," he stated.

"At present, we have the ability to modify the environment so our focus should not be on genetics. The obesity epidemic is appearing in higher proportion than the number of individuals with obesity-prone genotypes. The genetic relationship of obesity points out the need for changes on a cultural level rather than changing individual behaviour of the obese."

Changes in societal values, food production or consumption, and genetics all seem partially responsible, he indicated with an example.

"All the attention has been on the health problem and not the meal size. They are telling McDonald's that what you should do is offer salads.

What they should do is get rid of huge portion meals, according to this research."

It's not the kind of food, but the portion size. Western society focuses on bigger as better, with food that has higher energy in each serving — even in the household, he noted.

"Canadians' standard meal, if compared to other societies is very large and dense in energy. There is a value system we have to overcome. It is possible. You start to see because of the huge impact that obesity and diabetes are having on our economic system. It is starting to change people's values. It isn't just the food industry."

But despite realization that our values and standards of food production increase obesity, "there is no blame," Pierce said.

"All these things come about because of large-scale factors. We are in a land of plenty. It's the land of plenty that has generated a value system that supports that [obesity]."

## from the archives

### "Varsity shudders as cold wave moves in from North"

February 4, 1936

Life is just a bowl of frost-bitten cherries on the U of A campus these days.

On Tuesday morning the various worthy students awoke to the tune of a forty-degrees-below-zero weather bureau. Cold weather has drifted down from the north and enveloped the province in its icy clutch. The great cold rush of '97-'98 was mere child's play compared with the hardships endured by the students in their journey to Varsity this morning.

Frozen ears and noses were much in evidence despite the precautions of turned-up collars and pulled-down caps that were taken. Many of the sufferers maintained their dignity until they were within about two hundred yards of the University, and then with a frantic hope that they might save the other ear, they made a mad dash for warmth and shelter ...

*From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out [thegatewayonline.ca/archives](http://thegatewayonline.ca/archives).*

## Display emphasizes natural properties, colours of gems

**DIAMONDS** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The average weight of a diamond loaned to the museum is one karat, or approximately 0.2 grams, although the extraordinary pink diamond from the U of A is approximately three karats. Vividly pink diamonds are extremely rare, as they originate from a single mine in Australia.

"For a while this was the biggest mine in the world in terms of mass, but now they are coming towards the end of their life. Once that is over, the supply of pink diamonds essentially will more or less end," Stachel explained.

Diamonds tend to adopt colours based on chemicals present during their development: uranium often causes a green tinge, while the presence of nitrogen results in a yellow colouring.

It often takes hundreds of millions of years for a diamond to inherit a colourful hue; a simple polishing can remove the colour completely, as it resides only in the top nanometres of the diamond's upper layer.

"Diamonds" also features the famous Opdahl Diamond, the first verified diamond to be found in Alberta.

While the province does not yet have an official diamond mine, it does have numerous diamond depos-

its. The Opdahl Diamond was found in a river valley west of Edmonton in the 1950s.

Stachel began the formulation of the current diamond display at the University in 2001 with assistance from De Beers, the world's largest diamond mining and trading company, in addition to soliciting private donations.

"We did not want cut diamonds because that is shown in museums all around the world; we wanted them all rough so that you really see the properties of natural diamonds," Stachel explained.

"In most diamond exhibits when you go there you see beautiful cut stones, that too is valid [...] but it shows you something very different that is not what geology is about."

The Museum of Mineralogy and Petrology, located in the basement of the Earth Sciences Building, and open Monday through Friday to the public, draws approximately 5,000 visitors each year. Many school groups tour its displays.

"In a way [this exhibit] raises the profile of the display, which then hopefully draws more visitors to our museum," Stachel said.

"Diamonds" will be open to the public at the Royal Alberta Museum until March 21.



# First nations protest status of Indian Act

TANNARA YELLAND  
*The Sheaf*

SASKATOON (CUP) — On a national day of protest when thousands of Canadians were amassing to cry “shame” at Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his decision to prorogue Parliament, a large contingent of First Nations people in Saskatoon were protesting the current state of the Indian Act.

Section six of the Indian Act, which deals with who is entitled to status, was judged by the B.C. Court of Appeals in 2009 to contravene the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Eldon Okanee of the Thunderchild First Nation spoke to the Saskatoon crowd about recent changes to the Indian Act and what that might mean for Canada’s Aboriginal population.

Last Saturday in Saskatoon, amid signs of “Pierogies not Proroguing” and “King Stephen (The Last),” more ominous ones could be found bearing the slogan, “Let’s stop genocide in our country.”

According to protester Albert Angus of Thunderchild First Nation, the signs were intended to refer to the Indian Act and the “cultural genocide” it is allowing by tying registered Indian status to blood quantum, as it currently does.

Blood quantum refers to whether or not someone is eligible for Indian status depending on racial inheritance.

The child of one Aboriginal and one non-Aboriginal parent is eligible for “registered” Indian status. However, if that person has a child with another non-Aboriginal, that child will not be eligible for status.

“And since it’s been found that 50 per cent of our young people have children with one non-Indian as a parent,” Angus claimed, within three generations there will be next to no Indians under the current Indian Act, which he insisted was “analogous to genocide.”

It is this provision that led to many First Nations protesters carrying signs asking to end the “genocide” in Canada. It is also this provision that was ruled unconstitutional.

The court suspended this ruling for one year until April 6, 2010, to allow the federal government to amend the law.

The Indian and Northern Affairs Canada website says, “The government intends to introduce legislation in early 2010 with the goal of having the proposed amendments in place by April 6, 2010,” but because the prorogation will set all parliamentary business back until March 3, this is unlikely to happen that soon.

This has caused consternation among Canada’s indigenous population.

In a recent media release, Chief Guy Lonechild of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations said, “There are serious issues that need to be dealt with in Parliament, including citizenship.”

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, shares Lonechild’s sentiment. In a January 15 statement, he called on parliamentarians “to form a special legislative committee to examine the fundamental barriers inherent in the current Indian Act framework rather than focusing on issues in isolation.”

While politicians continue to duke it out in the national media over the issue of prorogation,



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

**RAISING VOICES** Aboriginal people object to Indian status being tied to blood quantum.

many of Canada’s First Nations population wait for a change in the Indian Act that could strongly affect their lives.

“It may affect funding because they count Indians’ social services according to the Indian Act and when that’s in suspension, like now, it may not legally be possible for them to fund on a status quo basis,” Angus said.

“People who live hand to mouth on these poor Indian communities, what are they going to do then?”

# Debt load steadily increasing for Canadian students

EMMA GODMERE  
*CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief*

OTTAWA (CUP) — A new Statistics Canada report suggests that more Canadian students are taking out loans to finance their education — and are carrying larger debt loads upon graduation.

The study, entitled “The financial impact of student loans,” was released on January 29 and pointed out that increases in tuition fees over the last decade have brought more attention to student borrowing and led to more student debt.

The average amount owed in government loans by students graduating in 2005 was \$16,600 — up from \$14,700 in 1995. The difference becomes even larger when loans from other sources are considered and combined: the average total student debt for graduates in 2005 was \$18,800, compared to \$15,200 just 10 years earlier.

Further, the proportion of students graduating with even bigger amounts of debt has also grown: while only 17 per cent of loan-borrowing graduates graduated with debt amounting to more than \$25,000 in 1995, that number reached 27 per cent in 2005.

“The statistics that were released today basically confirmed what we’ve been saying for the past few months, which is that there [are] more and more students [who] are having to borrow to attend college and university, and we’re seeing students who are [...] graduating with much higher debt loads than in the past,” said Katherine Giroux-Bougard, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

NDP postsecondary education critic Niki Ashton agreed that proof of increased student borrowing and debt didn’t come as a surprise.

“Certainly the trend isn’t shocking; there [have] been numerous indications of that being the case,”

she said. “However, the fact that we’ve got a federal government that’s not responding to that need — despite this ongoing trend — is a shock.”

The study, which was based on three surveys completed between 2002 and 2007, indicated that students are also paying proportionally more for their education while governments are paying proportionally less.

Between 1989 and 2009, government funding fell from 72 to 55 per cent of the average revenue of postsecondary institutions, while percentage of revenue from tuition fees more than doubled from 10 to 21 per cent.

Additionally, the study — which conceded that little research has been conducted in the past to examine the effects of loans on students after graduation — found that while post-graduation employment rates remained about the same between borrowers and non-borrowers, students with loans after graduation were much less likely to have savings and investments, or own a home.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations National Director Arati Sharma highlighted that more research needs to be conducted in these areas — but that there are considerably fewer organizations available to investigate long-term issues surrounding postsecondary education.

“We need to do more research,” she said, noting that the Canadian Council on Learning

think-tank may be closing its doors soon and that the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation has been dissolved. “We really need someone to step in and do that type of research so we can know what students are doing after graduation.”

Ashton, who also believes that recent cutbacks in funding for educational research is a key issue, reiterated the need for a national postsecondary education initiative.

“We [want to] see that the national government provides leadership — so that it’s not something that’s left to the provinces, but rather Canada is looking out for the support and the

**“It would really be a shame if [governments] didn’t take action on this student debt crisis, especially at a time when there’s a number of Canadians who are out of work, looking for retraining.”**

KATHERINE GIROUX-BOUGARD  
CFS NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

investments that they need to be making in our students and in our future generation,” she said.

Calls were made to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada in an effort to find out if any plans to respond to the student debt statistics were being crafted by the government, but requests for interviews were not immediately returned.

“It would really be a shame if the provincial governments and the federal government didn’t take action on this student debt crisis, especially at a time when there’s a number of Canadians [who] are out of work, looking for retraining,” Giroux-Bougard said. “Both levels of government should really be seeing postsecondary education as an area of investment — one that’s going to pay dividends for the governments for years to come.”

# Federal gov. boosts summer job program

LAURA BEESTON  
*The Link*

MONTREAL (CUP) — The Conservative government announced earlier this month that \$10 million from its economic stimulus package would be transferred to the Canada Summer Jobs program, creating thousands of extra jobs for students who last summer faced the worst youth unemployment rate in 30 years.

Despite the extra money pledged in the January 12 announcement, students may not notice more job opportunities because the demand for jobs is expected to far outstrip the reduced supply from the private sector.

“This is a very, very marginal increase, [considering] youth unemployment is higher than (unemployment in) any other segment of the population,” said Michael Savage, the Liberal party’s human resources and skills development critic.

“When you look at the stimulus program and the billions of dollars that are involved, this could be an area where you can get a real, immediate bang for the buck,” Savage said. “It’s the perfect time. Why wouldn’t we invest much more dramatically in students [instead of] tinkering around the edge with this? Why not more?”

According to the federal government, the program, which now has a budget of \$107.5 million, created 37,500 summer jobs for students in 2009. Meanwhile, Statistics Canada reported that student unemployment was at its highest rate since comparable data became available in 1977 — hitting a record 20.9 per cent unemployment in July.

Organizations like the Concordia Student Union’s job bank in Montreal are feeling the effect of these numbers.

“We’ve just been so busy. This is clearly a very significant issue,” said job bank co-ordinator Jonathan Elston, explaining that, despite an extremely high demand for work from students, there has been a decrease in the number of jobs available.

“From October to January, the supply of [employers offering] jobs saw a 50 per cent drop since last year. But in November, we had 43 per cent more students coming into the office looking for work,” Elston said.

The government’s plan, which limits jobs to full-time students aged 15 to 30 years old that intend to return to school, is part of its Advantage Canada project to “help create the best-educated, most skilled, and most flexible workforce in the world.” Despite the promises, critics are unsure how invested the government is in creating student jobs.

“If you can employ 37,500 students with \$100 million, it’s not hard to figure out how many more students you can employ by increasing the investment by 30 per cent, 50 per cent, or 100 per cent — pick a number,” Savage exclaimed.

“The program is already in place; lots of students need work, and lots of organizations need students — all they have to do is put more money into the envelope,” he added.

For students who can’t afford to wait for a government-guaranteed job and are hoping to bolster their job-finding strategies this summer, Elston recommends beginning the summer job search now by visiting student employment centres and looking through resources.

“We’re here to empower our students to find work, even if the job market isn’t as good as it was last year,” Elston said. “But students should prepare in advance. If you were unemployed last summer, it doesn’t have to be that way again.”

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# Gray Moods In Gray Matter

Written by Sean Steels

Susan Smith first noticed changes in her behaviour when a friend pointed out her newfound irritability after midterms in the fall semester of her second year. She had always become stressed around exams, but this time, the feelings of anxiety over grades were slow to leave.

After a month of waiting, the emotions persisted, until another friend suggested she might be depressed.

"It kind of caught me off guard. I had lost my appetite, was cranky all the time, and couldn't keep up the same in classes," said Smith, whose name has been altered at her request.

"I thought it was silly for a long time, but eventually I admitted [my friend] was right, and decided to find treatment. It was weird to own that."

But Smith's story is not as uncommon as she believed. The chain of events leading to her case of mild depression run their course every day in the stressful and unpredictable environment of a university campus. And unlike cases of depression in teens and youth, which are often associated with the wild chemical changes of puberty, university-aged students tend to accumulate stresses from external factors.

"We believe for sure that earlier in adolescence, the changes of puberty seem to be associated with the onset of depression. The symptoms [of depression] are similar, regardless of age, but it seems there is a high rate of depression in the postsecondary age group because of all the transitions that they're experiencing and all the stress of attending university," Nancy Galambos, a professor in the U of A's Department of Psychology, explained.

"There are concerns that are often financial in nature, new relationships, broken relationships, and a lot of uncertainty about the future. I think that all of those things play into high prevalence of depression in this age group."

While few studies have been done on the yearly timing of depression, Kim Maertz, a psychologist at U of A Counselling Services, can attest to the ebb and flow of students using his services.

Traffic begins slowly in September, but when exams arrive, numbers tend to increase, and quickly over-saturate to the point that students must be turned away.

But although Smith's own depression-related stresses built around academic pressure, reasons for high cases of depression in postsecondary students are plentiful — the need for sometimes having multiple jobs to support education expenses, and, not surprisingly, the emotional turmoil of both new and dying relationships can play roles.

Maertz, who has published several handbooks for dealing with staff and student depression currently in use on U of A campus, explained that underestimating the emotional sway a relationship can hold over an individual can often lead to denial of the stress-factors that can stem from problems.

"There are a lot of students coming in and out of relationships because there are so many breakups during that time. It's a time [students] are really prone to the potential for loss issues related to those breakups."

But the list of reasons and outlets for depression are as numerous as the number of people who get depression, Maertz explained. Variance in the severity and source of depression is great, and problems that would be easily solvable

for some can create insurmountable stress for others.

In all cases, the causes usually boil down to proper self-care — whether that be emotional, nutritional, or social self-care — which tend to be shuffled aside in the busy, unrelenting schedule of a university student.

"Postsecondary students have a unique situation. Older individuals in the workforce and younger individuals in grade school get, at the end of the day, a chance to relax and, say, sit down and watch television. They have a lot of time for social support and connection," he said.

"With all the academic pressures, as well as jobs, it makes it less likely that you'll be able to handle daily stresses. It can also cut into time for sleep."

Sleep, Galambos added, remains one of the most vital aspects of self-care in fighting depression. Her own work here at the U of A has included studying the effects of sleep on its onset.

Self-care is also a matter of exclusion for the University student, she continued. While for many age groups — including postsecondary students — it is a matter of increasing sleep, nutrition, and self-care, excluding habits that negatively affect these factors, or decrease the regularity of sleep patterns are also a concern. This is important to remember, she explained, while university students try to satisfy their "social well-being."

"There is a definite connection between alcohol and drug abuse and mental depression. What causes that is not clear, though," Galambos said. "What we do know is that some people, when depressed, will then self-medicate by smoking, drinking, and using substances. It might become a vicious cycle, which can then cause more depression and more self-medication."

Canada's National Population health survey also shows that smoking can increase the risk of depression later in life.

But social well-being should not be disregarded in favour of more tangible health improvements such as eating and sleeping right. In fact, new studies are showing that social connections also provide strong supports against depression.

The support provided by friends and family can be quick remedies, and receiving external help is almost always a positive experience — good news for students who might at times feel a little guilty about investments in their social ties.

"Social support is a big one, a really significant predictor of depression. The more people around you that are supportive, the less depressed you're likely to be," she said.

"Students shouldn't be avoiding these problems or putting them off. We know that the more quickly they're dealt with, the less likely they are to recur, and the less severe those recurrences are likely to be."



## Brown's nudity not crude, a bit rude

NOT EVEN TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE Massachusetts put its collective faith in Republican candidate Scott Brown to fill the Senate vacancy left by the late Ted Kennedy, and he's already piqued the curiosity of many individuals regarding indecent moments from his past. What an overachiever.

Sitting down for an interview with Barbara Walters on ABC's Sunday morning political forum *This Week*, Brown was questioned about a spread he did for *Cosmopolitan* magazine in 1982 — back when the senator-elect was only 22 years old — wherein he appeared completely nude, but with his johnson tucked away and masterfully concealed behind his conveniently placed right arm. (Sorry, ladies.)

When probed about whether or not he regretted the sultry shoot — seeing as how public image can make or break politicians, and all — Brown defiantly stated that he didn't. In fact, he even credited the racy photos for thrusting him into the public's sphere of awareness in the first place, saying to Walters, "If I hadn't done that, I never would have been sitting here with you."

The senator-elect is unequivocally correct in defending something that shouldn't have any bearing on his political image; however, some of the statements that he made in sticking up for himself are completely misguided, and indicate he's clearly not starting off on the right footing as a public figure.

While I'm certainly not a nudist by any stretch of the imagination, I've never been one to shy away from free-spiritedness, and nudity (within reason) certainly falls under this jurisdiction — avid readers of this past April's *GO Magazine*, and subsequent fans of my side-ass, should already be well aware of this. Should a man or a woman feel the need to break free from the oppressive shackles of clothing, and so long as it's done in a tasteful manner, they should be allowed to do so without being chastised and having it act as an obstruction towards achieving career-oriented goals. There is absolutely zero correlation between removing one's clothes for a magazine shoot — and from nearly three decades ago, of all things — and one's ability to run a political office.

Brown's statement, however, that he wouldn't be where he is if not for his little strip-down is pretty troubling. In effect, what he appears to be promoting is the message that if he hadn't done something provocative to snag attention outside of his political sphere, his knowledge of the job and ability to sell his platform wouldn't have been strong enough to get himself into a position to become Massachusetts senator. Seems like an odd statement to publicly reveal to the people that he represents, given that he's set to be sworn in to replace Kennedy on February 11.

Just for fun, though, let's apply this same logic to something else that Brown revealed in his interview. When asked by Walters whether or not he would disapprove of his daughters — both of legal age — posing nude for a magazine, Brown said somewhat hesitantly that he would "leave it up to their discretion."

Coincidentally enough, one of his girls, Ayla, made it to the top 16 on *American Idol* in 2006. Based on Brown's statements and my right to assume things, I'm being led to believe that if Ayla decided post-*Idol* that she wanted to speed up the process of getting a record contract by posing nude, thus getting attention through celebrity scandal, that Brown would have absolutely no qualms about it. The thing is, though, he's a parent and would instinctively try anything he could to prevent his child from going down that path — speaking from experience, parents generally don't look too favourably upon their kids doing things that are considered "taboo" in the eyes of the general populace.

There's nothing overtly wrong with Brown's immediate actions here. But before he takes control of his Senator's chair and starts having to deal with a public that will scrutinize his performance in a high-profile role, he needs to pay closer attention to the things he says and does. Stepping into Kennedy's seat likely means he's going to be living under a microscope now. Which will at least mean he's got something in common with his days as a *Cosmo* centerfold.

NICK FROST  
Managing Editor



ROSS VINCENT

## letters TO THE eds

### One man's trash

Last week, I attended a presentation sponsored by the Energy Club in ETLC. I arrived quite early because I had been attending another event earlier, and because I believed that this event would be heavily attended. Upon entering E1-001, I noticed that there were some copies of the *Gateway* on the floor in several locations. Being early, I decided to clean up the room. I found 30 or 40 copies of the *Gateway* — several of which were damaged from being walked on and/or used as napkins for pieces of pizza — four pens, a banana peel, an apple core, a copy of the *Globe and Mail* (which I later read — thank you), numerous candy wrappers, and other pieces of garbage.

Some may think it patronizing to assume that the janitorial staff is not as well informed as a university student — but leaving a copy of the *Gateway* and other newspapers could be seen as a good thing. But not 30 or 40, most of which were on the floor and a good 10 or more were damaged. May I recommend that at the beginning of class one or two people be designated to leave a copy of the *Gateway* for the janitorial staff? Please leave it on a table at the front where it is clearly visible and easily picked up.

As for the rest of the garbage, do I really need to suggest that leaving it lying on the floor is highly inappropriate and should be decried by all students?

FRANK HANLAN  
Edmonton

## from THE web

### Na'Vindication

RE: (Opening Pandora's box of escapism, January 21)

I'm an *Avatar* fan, and a devoted one at that. I can also proudly stand up and say that the film has made me a better person, who wants to try to do everything he can to make this world a better place to live. While I would love to visit Pandora, should such a place be discovered, I realize very distinctly that the message of the film is an inspirational one, intended to make our own lives better. The film has become a victim of its own commercial success — it has to be bad for you, because it's so popular, right? Wrong. While I admit that some of my fellow fans have taken the fantasy world a bit too seriously, and find it hard to live their normal lives anymore, these are often teenagers who would be going through those changes anyway. If not *Avatar*, then another film, or game, or TV show. Don't come down on them too hard.

*Avatar* is more than a simple Hollywood blockbuster, and more than a "trick" by Cameron to "brainwash" people into believing his personal morality. It's a film that, despite its flaws, has changed many people's lives in very fundamental ways, gotten under their skin, and into their hearts. I've read testimonials of people who've given up smoking, turned vegetarian, planted gardens, reunited with their families, and been pulled out of depression by this film. Anything that can do that, and help humanity through a fantasy of gorgeous blue aliens fighting back against evil, deserves my respect and admiration.

And hey, nearly \$2 billion at the box office doesn't lie.

'NIGHTWEAVER20XX'  
Via Internet

### Avatarded (Hey, someone had to say it)

RE: (Opening Pandora's box of escapism, January 21)

Personally, I found the film to be disappointingly boring. After all of the build-up and media hype, which seem to be lauding the film as the greatest achievement in filmmaking in history, I was expecting a life-changing experience, not just another waste of a couple hours of my life. If I was looking for the latter, I would have taken a date out to some silly rom-com. At least there would have

been a purpose to my wasted time. It was boring. It was disappointing. It was most definitely not life-changing.

I do understand that the environmental topic was presented in the form of a science fiction film, but honestly, if there was a sci-fi film that discussed important events while providing a worthwhile viewing experience over the last year it was most definitely *District 9*. Personally, I don't think the planet that we live on really matters if we cannot learn to live on it together.

D  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed. Except no more about *Avatar*, people, because the sum total of words that have been bandied about that film now exceeds the press given to the Bible. Enough is enough.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.



# Seems a crackhouse divided cannot stand



JONN  
KMECH

**“The provincial government needs to take action immediately so that the young, eager dealers, who are ready and willing to hook you up with whatever you might be looking for, will know that their efforts can be rewarded in their local community. We have support groups and subsidies for so many other collectives already, so this shouldn’t be that much of a step outside our comfort zone.”**

Despite the fact that our country is slowly climbing out of the recent recession, many people are still experiencing hardship. Sometimes it seems the silent victims of this tragedy are the children, and events like those that took place this past weekend should compel us to ask whether we care about the most vulnerable people in society.

On Saturday, RCMP caught three Edmonton teenagers, two aged 17 and one aged 14, selling crack on the streets of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. The teenagers fled the scene, dropping a handgun in their haste, with the police pursuing them for nine blocks before their capture. The teens were charged with drug and firearm-related offenses, and were found to have two ounces of crack worth \$9,000. As Constable Jeremy Armstrong commented, dealers are moving from Edmonton to Meadow Lake and “it’s getting to be more common than it has been.”

This is undoubtedly a serious problem for many reasons. With such a dispiriting local market here in Edmonton, scores of crack-selling youths, many of whom can’t seem to find a buyer in their junior high school or during recess, are apparently being forced to take their business hundreds of kilometres to places as despondent as Saskatchewan in order to help their families make ends meet. In doing so, they must unnecessarily put themselves into grave danger, precariously riding the Greyhound at all hours of the

day and night solely to pack the crackpipes of people who can actually afford it. In fact, it’s so dangerous that these youths had to carry a firearm with them just to defend themselves during the trip. The poor dears.

I shake my head in shame when I think of it. These kids are barely old enough to be using drug slang, yet the streets of Edmonton can’t even provide them with the freebasing connections they desperately need in order to maintain fiscal solvency in a fast-paced, competitive market. These adolescents may even get behind on their homework or have to skip class altogether so that they can make hours-long journeys to other communities across the country to peddle crack, which could prove devastating for the education of the next generation of entrepreneurs. And now with this latest news report, it’s apparently gotten so bad in Edmonton that some local crack houses are casting these kids into the streets, saying that they can no longer support them. And we all know that without children, a crack house cannot be a crack home.

I think it’s clear that the provincial government needs to take action immediately so that the young, eager dealers, who are ready and willing to hook you up with whatever you might be looking for, will know that their efforts can be rewarded in their local community. We have support groups and subsidies for so many other collectives already, so this shouldn’t be that much of a step outside our

comfort zone. And there are dozens of possible solutions to aid the tykes.

One suggestion could be some kind of “Bring Your Crack To School Day,” where teens can finally open up their lockers and bring the best of Bogota to their furiously itching and paranoid classmates without fear of persecution, while learning a valuable lesson in the unlocked chemistry lab at the same time. Another option would be government subsidies that would help dealers amass larger stashes, which could lead to better profit margins — because, really, we need to be realistic here. Two ounces is not going to put food on the table for very long before these boys have to get back out there pounding the pavement. It’s hard work, but someone has to do it.

The time for action is now. I want to wake up one morning and see the day again when a 15-year-old can stand awkwardly on the street corner of this city with confidence, knowing full well that at any time, a tweaker will walk by in need of a fix, give him a covert signal, and he’ll be able to provide him with the finest product upfront in a nondescript alleyway transaction. Truly, this must be the dream spinning in the head of many a youth. No longer must we accept that young crack dealers should have to travel out of province to conduct their business, when there is such a potentially lucrative market waiting to be tapped right here in our fair city. Won’t somebody please think of the children here?

## THE BURLAP SACK

As a dedicated patron of Edmonton’s petty excuse for a transit system, I often find myself on an outdoor train platform waiting for the LRT. As thoughtful as ETS is, there are heaters to make our long waits nice and cozy during the winter months. However, there’s one major flaw that results in my buttocks turning into slick icy globes — they’re placed at incredibly inconvenient heights.

Somebody with a degree in heater location and installation obviously didn’t pay attention in Science 101. Here’s a tip: *Hot air rises* — even I know that. Any apparent heat that comes out of these things just climbs higher. I bet it’s nice and balmy up on the ceiling, but I try and stray away from plans to keep warm that involve stilts and Velcro suits ever since the circus disaster.

The heaters are thus much too far to be even remotely effective in warming up frozen bodies. At best, they provide a tinge of modest heat to one’s face. If you’re anything like myself, then hands tend to be the body part most in need of warmth. I suppose evolution thought it’d be great if our most useful appendages were located so far from the heart. However, if you want to return them from sub-zero temperatures, you have to project them upwards like a televangelist, and that only exposes them to the cold winds found at mid-level altitudes.

So I’d personally put one of those infernal devices into the Sack, and the combination of heating appliance and burlap fibres is probably a recipe you’d find in the *Anarchist’s Cookbook*. And the resulting combustion still probably wouldn’t keep me warm.

AARON YEO

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.*

## UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS’ UNION ELECTIONS 2010 TO BE OR NOT TO BE? IT’S UP TO YOU!

# 2010 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The following referendum questions will appear on the ballot of this year's March 3 and 4 Students' Union Election.

### MILLENNIUM VILLAGES

*Do you support the establishment of a Millennium Villages Dedicated Fee, subject to the following conditions:*

- The fee shall be assessed to both full and part time students at a rate of \$7.50 per term\*, not to be levied more than twice per academic year\*, subject to the following conditions:
  - The fee shall be initiated in the Summer 2010 term\*,
  - The fee shall increase annually at a rate equal to the Alberta Consumer Price Index,
  - The fee shall expire on June 30, 2020, or at such a time that a successful referendum is conducted to rescind the fee, and
  - Students may opt out of this fee online and unconditionally.
- A Millennium Villages committee be formed to:
  - Manage and transfer collected funds to Millennium Promise†,
  - Maintain regular communication with Millennium Promise†,
  - Report on, market, and publicize the transfer of funds in a transparent and accountable way, and
  - Advertise the opt-out deadline.
- The Millennium Villages committee shall appoint one member to the Students’ Union Social Responsibility Committee, and include at least one Students’ Council member appointed by Students’ Council in its membership.

\* As defined by the 2009/2010 University of Alberta academic calendar.

† Millennium Promise is an external organization which administers the Millennium Villages Project.

### UNIVERSAL BUS PASS (U-PASS)

*Do you support the continuation of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions:*

- The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular transit service through Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and/or Winter Terms to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit within the participating municipalities service area.
- The cost of the U-Pass to each student would be mandatory, and would be
  - \$91.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2010/2011 academic year,
  - \$104.17 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2011/2012 academic year, and
  - \$116.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2012/2013 academic year
- The following students may opt-out of the U-Pass:
  - Students enrolled in work-experience, co-op, or a practicum outside of the participating municipalities service area for a majority of a term;
  - Students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability; and
  - Students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
- Students enrolled at Augustana are exempt from the U-Pass.
- The Students’ Union shall be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with participating municipalities and the University of Alberta, contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions.
- The U-Pass would expire upon the passing of a referendum to that effect, or the Students’ Union deciding that it can no longer adhere to any of (1) through (5).

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WELLNESS CENTRE (PAW)

*Do you support the establishment of a non-instructional fee subject to the following conditions:*

- The fee would be dedicated to the construction of a new Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre on North Campus as well as concurrent upgrades to the Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.
- The fee would be assessed in each term to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit, subject to the following conditions:
  - The fee shall be no greater than \$29.00 per term in Fall and Winter Terms;
  - The fee shall be no greater than \$14.50 per term in Spring and Summer Terms;
  - The fee shall be optional for:
    - students that are registered only in courses designated as off-campus;
    - students that are registered only in courses at Augustana campus;
  - The fee shall provide unrestricted use of the PAW Centre during its hours of operation to each undergraduate student currently paying the fee;
  - The fee shall not be assessed until the construction of the facility is complete and the student component is operational;
  - The fee shall be assessed for a period no longer than 35 years, or until the costs incurred in (1) have been recovered, whichever is first; and
  - Undergraduate students would be unable to alter or rescind the fee.
- There shall be a committee established for the PAW Centre that shall:
  - have an overall student majority;
  - provide strategic direction for the student component of the building program; and
  - establish budget principles annually.
- A building agreement is established between the Governors of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students’ Union that is subject to approval by Students’ Council.

**For more information about the elections process or the registration of sides meeting, please contact Jennifer Huygen, Chief Returning Officer at [cro@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:cro@su.ualberta.ca) or visit [www.su.ualberta.ca/vote](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/vote)**

If you are interested in being involved in campaigning for a referendum, please come to the Candidates Meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 18:00 in SUB 3-06 and become a registered member of a Yes or No side. You must attend this meeting to become a registered member. At this meeting the Campaign Manager for each side will be selected by and from the registered members.





# Religion can't flirt with disasters



TYLER  
DAWSON

On Monday, January 25, John Travolta and his wife Kelly Preston flew their private jet, loaded with six tons of rations and medical supplies to Haiti following the tragic earthquake on January 12. In addition to their cargo, Travolta also flew a number of doctors of varying expertise in order to help out with medical procedures. In theory, this is all good — it's no secret that Haiti is in need of supplies, and medical professionals are of absolute importance after such a disaster. And it's always nice to see people who have the means to help out others in a meaningful way step up to the plate and do their part.

Or not.

Also arriving with Travolta and company were 33 other altruists, a group that included volunteer ministers from the Church of Scientology. And it's here that we must begin to question the nobility of Travolta's motives. Still, he's obviously done a good thing here, right? Volunteers, rations, and medical supplies are all still great, right?

Face facts — the arrival of ministers from the Church of Scientology is nothing but religious imperialism. In *The Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein critiques western powers for their imposition of capitalist market policies upon nations while they are crippled by natural disasters. In the same

way, religious fundamentalists see the same opportunities in tragedy. Why else would they bring missionaries instead of another doctor? The answer is obvious: what better chance is there to harvest souls than from the ranks of the traumatized?

In addition to this, there's precedent that Scientology's beliefs on medical science are disastrously — and dangerously — skewed. Following the terrorist attacks on New York on September 11, 2001, firefighters working at Ground Zero needed medical attention in order to recover from the amount of smoke and toxic fumes that they inhaled during their work.

**Members of the Church of Scientology have absolutely no business peddling their spiritual garbage or medical ignorance to a devastated nation.**

Notable Scientologist Tom Cruise spoke out against this, and in 2003, he co-founded a detoxification program, claiming that afflicted personnel should go to Scientology clinics and undergo purification rituals instead of following regimens prescribed by medical doctors.

The stupidity of this thought process is mind numbing. Members of the Church of Scientology have absolutely no business peddling their spiritual garbage or medical ignorance to a devastated nation. If they're dishing out medical advice,

this places a strain on legitimate volunteer workers who must deal then with the victims of antiquated curative processes. This is not aid — this is impeding the delivery of aid in the name of religion. Times of disaster are emotionally and psychologically trying, and for a religious group to attempt to capitalize upon the suffering of these people is practically criminal.

Furthermore, legitimate organizations such as Doctors Without Borders have been desperate to land their own planes in Haiti and unload cargo and people who are unquestionably useful to the cause. However, for whatever reason, and despite a waiting list of over 800 planes, an A-list celebrity with a cargo of quacks and missionaries managed to get preferential treatment and a runway to land at the airport.

If Travolta wanted to make good use of his money, he would do it in a way that doesn't compromise the safety of the Haitian people. But this is just another illustration of Scientologists showing themselves to be ignorant of medical practices and the safety of others, and religious groups like them have a stellar record of providing aid for immoral reasons, with strings attached and money misplaced. No, the millions spent on this publicity stunt would be better off going to people who are professionals at this sort of thing; people who we know have the best interests of the Haitian people at heart. Applause from the media and a handful of post-trauma converts do not, cannot, and should not provide the justification for such inane and insensitive behaviour.

# Taliban bartering agreement a step forward



EVAN  
DAUM

On January 28, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced the creation of an international fund to be used for the sole purpose of reintegrating Taliban fighters. This notably raises the old debate — when is negotiating with terrorists acceptable? Well, apparently the time has come for talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban to take place with hopes that a breakthrough can be made in the war-torn country. The idea of negotiating with the Taliban's fringe elements has long been floated around by the major powers fighting to establish stability in the former Soviet republic, but that idea has never been actively pursued until now.

Some will call this latest tactic in the ongoing war in Afghanistan a simple attempt at bribing the Taliban to change their ways — a carrot on a stick, if you will. The reality of the situation, however, is that this latest manoeuvre by those invested in Afghanistan, including nearly 3,000 Canadians who are on the front lines, is quite possibly the most ingenious move made over the course of the nearly nine-year long conflict. What makes the plan even more legitimate is that it was initially hatched by Afghan President Hamid Karzai — a solution from within, so

**"While the plan is relatively simple, it's still an innovative step in what has become a bogged-down war of attrition. Of course, there will be critics out there who don't see the benefit in negotiating in terms of dollars and cents with a terrorist organization, but that view avoids the reality of the conflict — that it *isn't* a traditional conflict"**

to speak, which hinged on support from NATO.

While the plan is relatively simple — provide an opportunity for fringe fighters who aren't hardline Taliban members an out from the terrorist organization by providing financial stability in the form of cash and jobs in exchange for their cooperation with NATO and Afghan forces by denouncing terrorism and violence — it's still an innovative step in what has become a bogged-down war of attrition. Of course, there will be critics out there who don't see the benefit in negotiating in terms of dollars and cents with a terrorist organization, but that view avoids the reality of the conflict — that it *isn't* a traditional conflict.

The very nature of this war lends itself to the necessity for innovation as far as how the war is to be fought. Through the introduction of economic incentives to sway borderline Taliban members, this avant-garde plan may very well provide the breakthrough needed to turn the war which has been stuck in neutral for some time now.

The economic instability that has long been present in Afghanistan has left that country as one of the poorest in the world. With no sense of hope for improvement on the horizon, a turn to the Taliban

has given many a sense of belonging and purpose. While there is no doubt that many involved with the Taliban are hardliners who won't be swayed to give up their cause for anything, let alone money, this latest plan will be judged on whether or not it accomplishes its goal of swaying the fringe elements of the insurgency to lay down their arms.

By giving these marginal Taliban fighters an opportunity to escape, the international community has at the very least finally acknowledged that a comprehensive plan of attack is needed in Afghanistan, and perhaps not one based solely on military might. The fact that the root of the hardships faced by the Afghan people runs far deeper than the current war is an important statement by the brain trust running the offensive.

This latest plan is far from a "be all, end all" when it comes to achieving the end goal of creating a stable, self-sufficient Afghanistan, but it is certainly a positive step in terms of strategy in the Afghan War. While the end result of the war will ultimately dictate the overall success of the offensive, however long it lasts, this idea is nonetheless an encouraging development in a war that has seen little headway.

## NOT EVIL JUST WRONG

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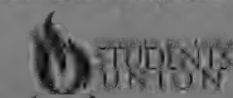
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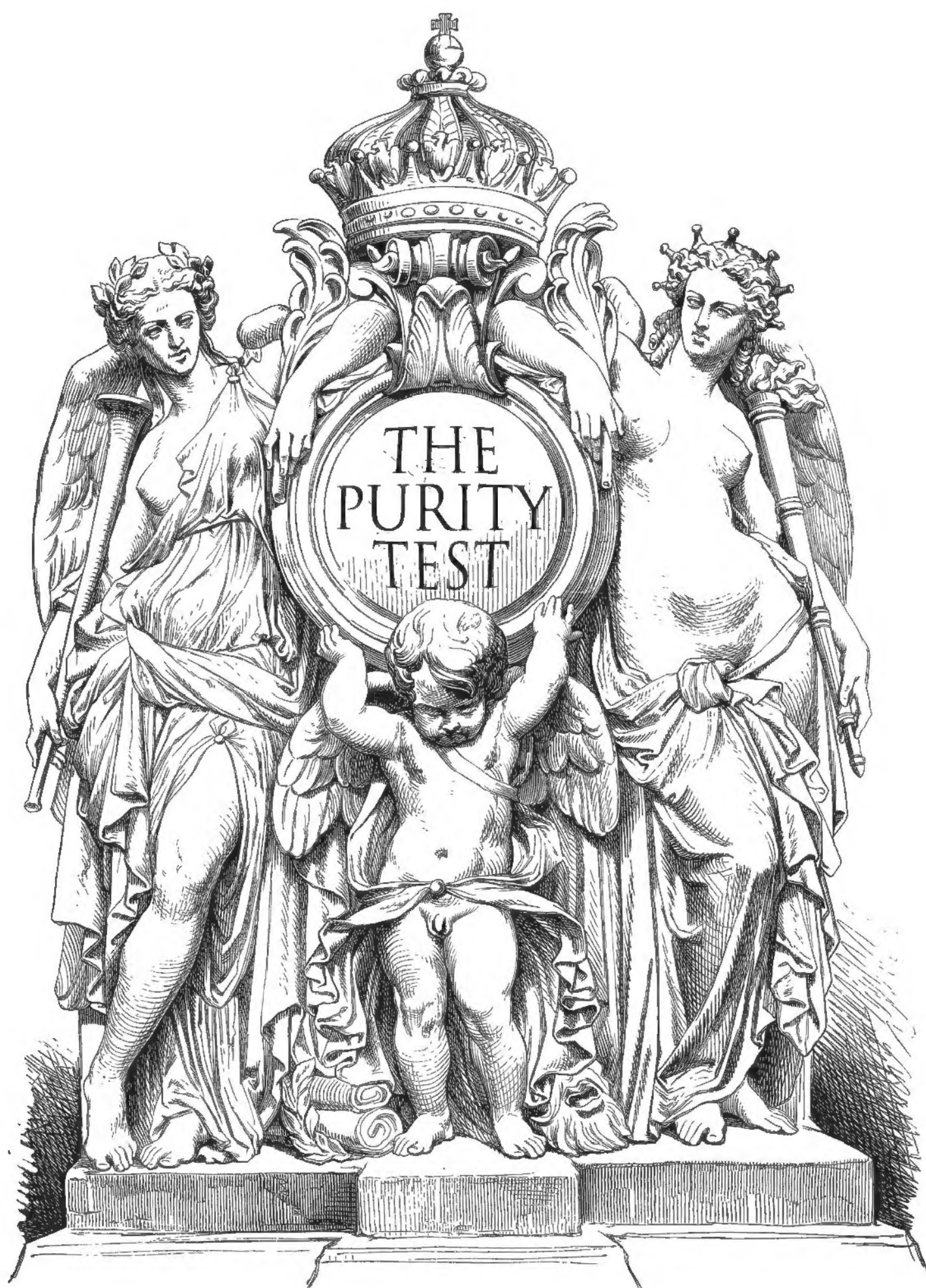


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## THE GATEWAY'S ANNUAL ROMP IN THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEDONISTIC PLEASURES



THURSDAY,  
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MMX



DAVID JOHNSTON

**SHADOW BOXING** There's only one way that the annual Groundhog Day shadow no-shadow debate *should* be settled.

## Getting a basic grounding in meteorology



DAVID  
JOHNSTON

**B**y the time this article, and the subliminal messages encoded within, strike your eyeballs, humanity will already have celebrated the 2010 version of that most beloved pagan holiday: Groundhog Day. Cheered by rodent fetishists and Bill Murray enthusiasts alike, Groundhog Day has become a keystone in our North American holiday traditions, though not so much that we get it off school and work, unfortunately.

As we all know, Groundhog Day is that magical holiday where we all gather around the ol' family groundhog (if you don't have one, you're probably a communist) and wait to see if he sees his shadow, which will apparently signal six more weeks of winter. The logic behind using a woodchuck as a seasonal barometer has always confused me, but it does seem like the logical thing to do is blind the creature, possibly with a high-powered flare gun. Thus, when the scared, confused critter pokes its bleeding eye sockets out of the hole, we can all cheer and dance a merry little jig, confident that springtime is on its way. I now realize I've just offended all my PETA readers. As penance, I will abstain from eating rodent meat for the next 24 hours. It'll be tough.

Now, our most famous cultural groundhog would be Punxsutawney Phil, from the city of Punxsutawney (Motto: "If the I.R.S. can't spell us, they can't find us!") in Pennsylvania. Again, why Phil is so seasonally accurate is a mystery to all of us,

but I'm guessing it has something to do with the water supply in Pennsylvania. It is, after all, the state that houses our continental supply of cream cheese, which commercials tell us is radiant and heaven-sent. So it's not unintuitive that they'd be a bit more photosensitive down in those parts, which would trickle all the way down to the rodents. See? It all fits together *perfectly*!

**Groundhog Day happens, and continues to happen, and will continue to happen until someone comes up with a quirky idea to make the holiday even more awesome.**

So maybe this year, we'll have an early spring, or maybe winter's grip will stretch out to March 16, which coincidentally is National Quilt Day. Probably best to curl up under one then, because in all likelihood, the weather is not going to follow the directive of a shoebox-sized rodent. Weather is insanely complicated. Wait, I'm not sure I've established myself as a credible resource on this sort of thing, ever since last spring when I suggested laser-satellites as a winter-combatting device.

Well, let's ask an expert, then. My brother, who's a pilot, has become insufferable ever since he went to pilot school and apparently learned what actually makes weather work. Every time I ask him if the clouds look like rain, he starts spouting off about cumulonimbus-this and air-speed-that and using big words that all have "-ital turbulence" tacked on

to the end, and I just pretend I'm listening. And he always ends with the caveat that it's pretty much impossible to predict the weather anyways, since Mother Nature is temperamental and prone to rapid mood swings, just like all women — amiright, fellas? Ah, now I've gone and offended all my female readers. Rest assured my penance will involve a large pair of crochet needles inserted in a rather painful location.

My point, though, is that with weathermen practically relying on Magic 8-Balls to predict tomorrow's precipitation, rodent forecasting doesn't seem so absurd. So Groundhog Day happens, and continues to happen, and will continue to happen until someone comes up with a quirky idea to make the holiday even more awesome. And luckily, quirky ideas are something I am a credible resource for, ever since — well, last spring, when I had that laser-satellite idea.

Specifically, one of these years, I'd like to see Phil pop out of his hole and rather than seeing his shadow/not seeing his shadow, have his shadow not be there at all. And he'll look around in a confused Schrödinger-type manner, and then his shadow will leap out from behind a tree and they'll have to wrestle. And then he'll beat it up and sew it back to his feet. J.M. Barrie would approve.

Until that time, however, Groundhog Day will continue to be the same old steadfast holiday with cameras and frightened rodents coming together in one of the oddest cultural touchstones known to North Americans. So let's all hope that this year, Phil and all the other groundhogs across the land will not be scared shade-less, and spring will come early. And if it's not looking promising, remember — a flare gun is usually only a hand-span away.



# Dan Mangan muses on robot love, newfound popularity

## musicpreview

### Dan Mangan

With Aidan Knight

Friday, February 5 at 6 p.m. (tix available) and 9 p.m. (sold out)  
The Haven Social Club  
(15120 Stony Plain Road)  
\$15 at Ticketmaster

MADELINE SMITH

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Many a promising musician has fallen victim to the adoration of the media spotlight, becoming wrapped up in their own greatness as soon as they get a bit of positive publicity. For Dan Mangan, although it seems like he's been receiving nothing but rave reviews lately, his feet are planted firmly on the ground.

"If you start getting entitled to [praise], and if you start feeling like you deserve it forever and always, then you're just kind of setting yourself up for becoming a jerk," Mangan says. "Like if somebody calls you some 'Canadian indie darling' or something, I can't really read that and believe it. It's not a healthy thing for me to read that and go like, 'Oh, that's who I am now.'"

Instead of dwelling on his own accomplishments, Mangan is much more concerned with the continued promotion and development of the talent that's begun to surface in his hometown of Vancouver.

"I think there's a really great scene that's emerged here in Vancouver, and when I first started gigging, I don't



think it really existed," he explains. "[Before], Vancouver was like, the home of Nickelback [...] They really got their break from the local radio station here."

Having apparently overcome the unfortunate association with a band that's usually only a source of shame for Alberta, Mangan explains that Vancouver musicians have since developed a true community of musical allies who promote and support each other's artistic endeavours.

"Now it seems very much like everyone's just a big conglomerate association of friends who all play music

and are in different bands. People are starting to do well, and tour across Canada, and tour internationally [...] It's exciting."

The positive vibes from the west coast are also a huge part of what has allowed Mangan to attain the kind of success he's been enjoying lately. In fact, without it, the music video for his single "Robots" may have been impossible to create.

"We applied for a bunch of funding and we didn't get any of it," Mangan laughs. "So we had to do the video totally on the cheap, and everybody worked for free [...] I chose a number

of people from the local Vancouver music scene here who would be okay with just being ridiculous and silly. I think I chose well, and it's kind of neat — my girlfriend got to be in the video, and everyone was just able to include a whole bunch of friends and kind of make it a big day of silliness, really."

Those in the audience for Mangan's upcoming concert might find that the cheerful silliness of "Robots" is contagious in real life, too. The song has become a crowd favourite, getting people out of their seats to clap along and sing about how "robots need love,

too" with reckless abandon whenever it's played.

"I used to encourage people to sing the ending, and then on the recent tour in Canada, I guess because people knew the song, then people just started singing the whole thing," Mangan says with amusement.

"It's sort of like being at a pool party," he explains of his audience members' lack of inhibitions. "Nobody wants to jump in the pool until one person does, and then everyone wants to jump in the pool."

As for Mangan, he doesn't seem to mind getting splashed.

# Clichéd dialogue blemishes Gibson's otherwise respectable return to film

## filmreview

### Edge of Darkness

Directed by Martin Campbell

Starring Mel Gibson

Now Playing

JOEL RACKEL

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Mel Gibson is back and he's kicking ass.

It's been eight years since we've seen him in front of a camera, and the box-office golden boy returns pissed off, and with a Boston accent. Gibson plays Thomas Craven in the suspenseful *Edge of Darkness*, based on a much-celebrated '80s BBC miniseries of the same name and premise, with the same director attached.

Among the first images in *Edge of Darkness* is housewife Mel, cooking with a towel draped over his shoulder, discussing life with his 20-something daughter who is home to visit. For some reason (possibly just the fact it will make an exciting movie), he doesn't seem to know much about her. It's a neat scene with playful conversation (Oh, Mel you're so charming!), and then wham! His daughter, nose bleeding, vomiting on Mel's

supper, says "Dad there's something I need to tell you" and "take me to the doctor." They step outside, and Emma Craven is brutally slain on her father Thomas Craven's doorstep. The contrast between the pleasant domestic life and the shocking shooting is arresting, and perhaps the best moment of the film.

From here, we witness Emma's father mourn. He drinks ginger ale, spreads his daughter's ashes alone (no wife is ever mentioned), and if we weren't on poor Thomas Craven's side before, we sure are now.

Craven, a Boston detective, tries to dissect the mysterious event and answer the questions of why his daughter was sick, why none of her friends will talk about her, why she has a gun, what she did for work, and figure out why no one can make any real ground on the case.

Plots thicken, and you know which Mel we see next. The rogue Mel, the sleuth Mel — the kick-ass Mel. He's the guy with "nothing to lose and who doesn't give a shit" (that's an actual quote). Papa Craven needs to unravel this web of mystery for his piece of mind and for our entertainment.

The real strength of *Edge of Darkness* is that this doesn't lead to Gibson's character killing hundreds of people

and/or performing motorcycle jumps through explosions while keeping katana-wielding ninjas at bay. As far as action is concerned, the film maintains a quasi-realism, and it's refreshing to see action used sparingly in the thriller genre. The scenes where action is necessary are interesting because actual meaningful characters are beaten up or killed rather than hordes of the antagonist's nameless minions.

Where *Edge of Darkness* stumbles is in aspects of the screenplay. Ridiculous lines such as, "By the way, thanks for not killing me" aside, the weaving plot is full of holes and many questions are left unanswered. It's unclear exactly who some people are and how everything works in the end. Also confusing is Thomas Craven bizarrely and unnecessarily seeing apparitions of his daughter as a child throughout the film. It seems the layered story is better suited for the miniseries, where all facets of the plot can be explored.

Mel Gibson said he would not return to acting unless the script was extraordinary. The premise of *Edge of Darkness* is good enough, the film is well made and the suspense is there, but in terms of writing, either something got lost from paper to screen or Mel gave up on his word.





# Swedish Arch Enemy fight for gender equality in heavy metal

## musicpreview

### Arch Enemy

*With Exodus, Arsis, and Mutiny Within*

Wednesday February 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Edmonton Events Centre

(8882-170 St.)

\$35 at Ticketmaster

GABBY RICHES

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Canadians have officially earned the title of being the ultimate metalheads — at least, that's what Sharlee D'Angelo, the bass guitarist for Arch Enemy, has noticed while embarking on the Tyrants of Evil tour.

"The Canadian dates have been the highlights of the tour so far. Americans should watch out, because the Canadians are whooping their ass," D'Angelo shares.

Even with all their brutality, defiance, and long hair, the members of Arch Enemy aren't impervious to the chaotic nature of touring, and the new routine they must adapt to for weeks or months on end.

"The normal routines that you take for granted like warm showers, clean toilets, a decent cup of coffee are sometimes hard to come by, but are important in maintaining a sense of normality," D'Angelo laughs.

Conversely, the reception from their dedicated and ever-changing fanbase allows D'Angelo to remain optimistic about the future of metal.

"We have a new front row of metal fans every time we play a show. There's a whole new generation which is awesome to see; metal has a real future."

Since their inauguration in 1995, this female-fronted, carcass-infested, dismembered melodic death metal band has been receiving a lot of attention. The band, comprised of Angela



Gossow, Sharlee D'Angelo, Daniel Erlandsson, and founders Michael and Christopher Arnott, is considered an anomaly in the Swedish metal scene.

"The rest of the band comes from a small town, and so we were not part of the popular Gothenburg and Stockholm scenes. We were isolated, but that is what made our sound unique compared to other Swedish death metal bands," D'Angelo explains.

The invention of the iPod and docking stations have become vital metal resources for shaping the band's sound as well, especially during the idle hours between gigs spent on a tour bus.

"Anything that we're listening to right now influences Arch Enemy. We listen to what's on people's iPods, or what we come across on tour. There are

nine iPods on the bus, and when someone thinks of something to play, then it's a full-on war with musical ideas," chuckles D'Angelo.

With their newly released compilation album *Root of All Evil*, Arch Enemy sought to satisfy their diverse demographic by re-recording songs from their past albums to include the female hostility and aggression of new frontwoman Gossow.

"We got a lot of requests from audiences to play stuff off of the first three albums. And when I mean people, I'm referring to that one guy with a beard in the back clapping over and over, wanting to hear the old stuff," he jokes. "People wanted to hear the old material with Angela singing and we thought that was a cool idea. This album is for the fans. Even Johan, Arch Enemy's previous singer, really enjoys the album."

Sharlee was also involved in another female-fronted metal band previous to his membership in Arch Enemy, and comments on the fact that the metal scene has become more welcoming to female audiences.

"Metal is a lot more open these days than it used to be. When we released the *Wages of Sin* album, it created quite a stir in the media. Nobody has seen anybody sing like Angela before. It's been a male-dominated scene for way too long, so it's great to see more women coming to shows."

He comically follows his statement by insisting that Arch Enemy's nondiscriminatory attitude extends even farther than just to women.

"We want to get everybody to get involved in the music. Boys, girls, dogs, goats — it doesn't matter, we don't discriminate."

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# Channing Tatum brings healthy serving of beefcake to *Dear John*



## filmpreview

### Dear John

Directed by Lasse Hallström  
Starring Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried  
Opens February 5

LARYSSA SZMIHIELSKY  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Next on the list of author Nicholas Sparks' novels to be adapted to film is *Dear John*, which promises to maintain all of the features one would expect: romance, tears, and liberation. Taking on the role of the all-American soldier John Tyree is Channing Tatum, in all of his beautiful six-pack glory.

You might remember Tatum from his most recent action film spree (*G.I. Joe: The Rise of the Cobra*, *Fighting*, and *Public Enemies*). Tatum explains that he happily put his action-film career on hold, "because [of the] connection [you have] with someone that you're acting with that you're not shooting at or doing stunts with."

"You can just sit on the beach with another actor and have a real conversation that's not about nanomites and

things like that," he says.

After deciding the role was for him, he dove right into the romantic film.

"I read [the book] and I just fell in love with John. I mean, he's the perfect, courageous, honour-filled, good human being."

When asked how he and co-star Amanda Seyfried got into character, he replies that they "made a choice to convey how life can just wear on you, that you don't really have control over it sometimes."

"The best part [of the whole process]," he continues, "is that it's always an exploration going down and doing some of these roles and digging up something about yourself. It's an adventure when you go off on a trip like this and you know it's going to be emotion, and you know it's going to be heavy at times. But you're also going to have a blast and laugh."

Anyone who has watched the lineup of Nicholas Sparks' movies will notice the trend of medical issues referenced among characters. This commonality is one of which *Dear John* is certainly no exception. Autism is the hot topic referenced, but Tatum assures us that it doesn't come across in a preachy way. He says that he didn't know much about the condition before filming the

movie, and that the process has made him understand that labels such as "special needs" shouldn't necessarily apply to autistics.

"I just think that they're really unbelievable [people] that take in life differently. I think we should be a little more sensitive to that," he says.

After spending time with his six-year-old autistic co-actor, Braeden Reed, Tatum couldn't help but notice Reed's admiration for life.

"He has such a wonder about him. When he looks at things, you can tell that he's looking at it to really want to know about it, you know, which is more than I can say about [myself] as a kid. I just wanted to run, climb trees, and push little girls down."

The romantic film is conveniently coming out right before Valentine's Day — hint hint for any guys looking for a way to spend the day with their girlfriends. Even with his swamped movie-promotion schedule, Tatum assures us that he'll make the time to plan something special for his lady, wife Jenna Dewan.

"Set aside a little part of the day just to do something sweet. It's not that hard, guys, to do sweet things for your wives and your girlfriends. Figure it out!"



## albumreview

### Mutiny Within

Mutiny Within  
Roadrunner Records

GABBY RICHES  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The future of metal has finally arrived (according to the album's cover), packaged with hard driving guitars, technical prowess, intense sweep picking, melodic harmonies, and dichotomous metal vocals. Mutiny Within started out as a Children of Bodom cover band, and as a result, their first full-length album reflects the current infatuation with trite melodic death metal.

Formed in 2002, this New Jersey sextet offers metal fans a unique yet superfluous amalgamation of technical

death metal, metalcore, and existential philosophy. Mutiny Within has already shared the stage with well-established metal bands such as Soulfly, Cattle Decapitation, and will be touring with Arch Enemy, Exodus, and Arsis. Their music consists of intermittent melodies, keyboard interludes, both guttural and clean vocals, and frustrating repetition.

Mutiny Within is fraught with predictability, paradoxical lyrics, and bland compositional strategies, making this album a future metal flop. This

reiterates the theory that you cannot trust a metal band that is predominantly made up of short-haired enthusiasts. One may consider that the song "Year of Affliction" alludes to the fact that metal bands like Behemoth are becoming fashionistas by collaborating with a clothing brand that sponsors the UFC. Other notable songs that might pique some interest are "Awake," "Suffocate," and "Forsaken."

Mutiny Within's webpage indicates that they're "single-handedly ushering in a new generation of metal," which apparently involves watered-down melodies, unnecessary time lengths for songs, and weepy vocals juxtaposed with guttural angst. Is this the future of metal, or are we stubbornly remaining in "Oblivion"? Hopefully, Mutiny Within will awaken out of their slumber and realize, "Behind the hurt [or disappointment], there is a new beginning."



# Daawat warms freezing Edmonton winter with exotic Indian flavour

## diningreview

### Daawat (The Invitation)

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Fri and Sat 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m.  
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NAOMI WILLIAMS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The snow crunches under our feet, and the air is icy on our cheeks. We walk down the empty street as we make our way up 83 Avenue and over to Whyte. We stop to wait for the light, kicking our feet to keep warm, and cursing ourselves for living in Edmonton.

The restaurant is warm, not only in temperature, but in atmosphere, and in the smells of hot spices that are dancing in the air. A well-dressed young man greets us within the first steps we take into the restaurant, and asks us where we would like to sit. We steer ourselves into the heat of the restaurant: next to the buffet, close enough to hear the bells from the kitchen when the food is ready. We slide into sofa-seats of a royal red and gold-printed fabric with an intricate curved edge. In addition to the aesthetic appeal, these seats are comfortable — damn comfortable.

We both easily melt in, sending an order for Indian beer and an appetizer. Our server, Kaif, returns from the fridge with a Kingfisher beer for my sister and a Taj Mahal for me (\$5.95 each). He pops open the glass-bottled beers pouring the liquid into pint glasses. We tap our glasses together, and let the light, fresh beverage pour down our throats.

Soon after our first sip, the Vegetable Pakora arrives (\$6.95). We talk little, popping the golden fritters that melt in our mouths, one after another. After turning the pages, and tossing



PETEYEE

names and dishes back and forth, we make our decision, and send our order with Kaif. We sink a little lower into the sofa-seats, letting the driving beat of the Bollywood dance music elate our moods.


The bell rings. We're soon greeted with sizzling sounds and wafting smells as the Paneer Tikka (\$12.95) arrives at our table. Kaif serves the tantalizing food from the hot plate to my sister then to me. The seared homemade cheese, hot tomato, onion, and green pepper are paired with a warm mint sauce. We grin as we eat, both glad that we decided to try a new dish.

Deep, another employee at Daawat, stops by our table. Full of smiles and energy, she is impossible to miss when dining here. I send an order in for one of Daawat's Most Wanted cocktails proves to be a dangerous accessory, cool and flavourful with two shots of vodka, brown sugar, mint leaves, lemon chunks, and topped with lemonade (\$7.95).


The bell rings. The honey-drizzled Coconut Naan (\$2.95) arrives harmonized with Baigan Bharta (\$10.95). I use the naan to pick up the spicy mashed mixture of eggplant, onions, and tomatoes. My nose begins to sweat, and I'm

glad for the cool mint beverage to even the flavourful fire in my mouth. We talk slow, and let the lingering Indian spices heat our systems. To delay leaving the restaurant, we order Chai (\$2.25) for dessert.

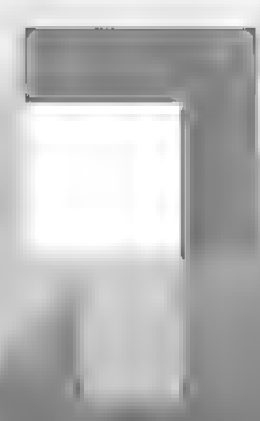
Deep comes with the tea, telling us the place is now open late Friday and Saturday night until 3:30 a.m. Moving from Vancouver, she also comments on how she loves living in Edmonton. My sister and I lock eyes, and nod in agreement. Maybe, after all, the cold-barren prairie has magic of its own taste, in unique spaces.



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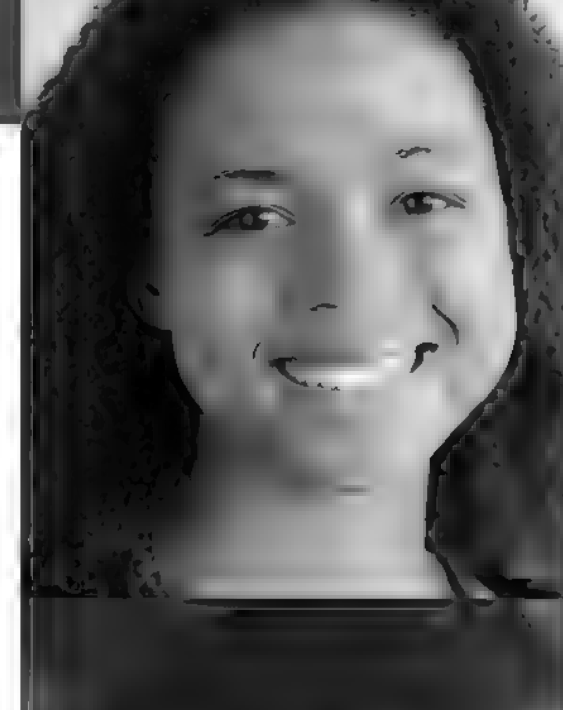

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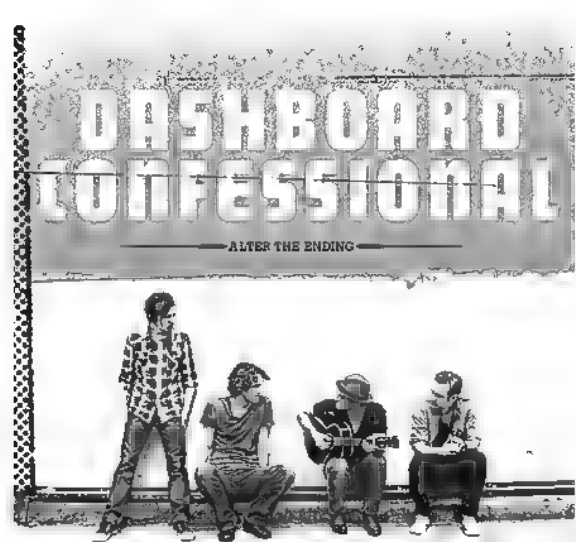
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**Dashboard Confessional**  
*Alter the Ending*  
DGC Records

## albumbattle

VS

**The Swell Season**  
*Strict Joy*  
Anti Inc.



DAVID JOHNSTON  
Opinion Editor

*The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!*

### Preliminary bias

**Dashboard:** I actually have a bit of an irrational crush on Dashboard, having burned through *Dusk & Summer* until the disc ran raw, and their vocal stylings always reach a point where they become infectiously charming. They've become a brand unto themselves at this point, which is always nice.

**Season:** Glen Hansard. Marketa Irglova. Their movie *Once*. Their song "Falling Slowly." Just wow.

**Advantage:** Sorry, Dashboard. You're not winning that one.

### Frontman

**Dashboard:** Chris Carrabba, whose vocals are always perfectly Chris Carrabba-ish, always with an undercurrent of plaintive desperation while sounding vaguely like a castrati.

**Season:** Glen Hansard, whose charisma and Irish brogue have been proven to cause spontaneous female ovulation at 40 yards.

**Advantage:** Draw. Both groups know exactly what they're presenting and are doing a damn fine job of it.

### Best vaguely stalker-ish-titled song

**Dashboard:** "I Know About You," which is a nice nod to Carrabba's excellent decision to *not* try, for most of the album, to prove his voice can shatter concrete walls if he screams just right.

The focus is now on creating intriguing music, which is a welcome change.

**Season:** "I Have Loved You Wrong," written and performed primarily by Irglova, and is also one of the saddest, most twisted, most heart-wrenching little ballads ever produced by mankind. Yet the silent ray of optimism at the end ties a wonderful little ribbon around it.

**Advantage:** Despite nice steps by Dashboard, Irglova's mournful little tune comes out on top without too much trouble. Seriously, those last 90 seconds are sheer genius.

### Greatest cry-into-your-pillow break-up song

**Dashboard:** This is Dashboard's signature style, and the album doesn't disappoint, with several excellent wrist-slittable numbers. Let's go with "Hell on the Throat," which finally delivers the emotional gut-punch the album has been building up to.

**Season:** "In These Arms," where frontman Hansard figures it's better to deliver the gut-punch at the beginning of the record so you're left bleeding all over your headphones. Bonus points for his low-key delivery of "If you stay with that asshole / He's gonna do you wrong" without seeming overly bitter.

**Advantage:** Hansard and Irglova actually wrote and recorded *Strict Joy* during their break-up, which is sort of exemplary right there. But we're on Dashboard's home turf, and their strap-it-back stylings are really starting to serve them well. One for the emo boys.

### Catchiest ditty

**Dashboard:** "Even Now" arguably represents the boys at their best

— stripped-down, acoustic guitar, simple, repetitive yet narrative, and eerily charming. And again, sort of stalkerish.

**Season:** It would be deliriously easy for "The Verb" to become word salad, but Hansard's careful grip on the 30 different directions this song is travelling keeps it grounded.

**Advantage:** Another tight one. I adore "The Verb," but go with Carrabba and company, who give their song just a couple more elegant entry points than the lengthy Season, in this case.

### Origin of title

**Dashboard:** They've actually got a song on here called "Alter the Ending," which doesn't actually contain the words "Alter" or "Ending." "The" is involved occasionally.

**Season:** A 1931 James Stephens poem of the same name, which is helpfully reprinted in the lyrics booklet. It also contains both the words "Strict" and "Joy."

**Advantage:** Joking aside, give it to Season. The titular motifs come up a little more in their lyrics than yet another plaintive request by Carrabba to change the past.

### Verdict

I wasn't expecting it to be this close. The Swell Season just edges out the win, for more accurately and continuously getting the feelings of lost and longing across than Dashboard Confessional. Both albums are worth a listen, though. Hopefully not back-to-back like I did, as I'm blaming these records for my current melancholia. Excuse me while I go get a razor blade.



## albumreview

**Hawksley Workman**  
*Meat*  
Isadora Records

MADLINE SMITH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hawksley Workman's newest album *Meat* sounds as emotionally raw as a teenage girl's diary: at times, he wallows in dark self-pity, while other times directing incoherent rage at others. The fact that he's just been through a bad break-up is painfully obvious — the poor guy is in rough shape.

Musically, however, this makes for a pretty interesting album, as well as a significant departure from his more recent work. Gone are the sweet, lyrical tunes of albums like *Between the Beautifuls*, newly replaced by heavy electric guitar riffs and snarky, biting lyrics. The eight-minute-long opus "You Don't Just Want to Break Me (You

Want to Tear Me Apart)" is the clearest example of this. Beginning with a slow, simmering anger, Hawksley spits out some pretty bitter post-break-up venom for the first three minutes of the song, but after a few jabs at his ex, he totally unravels. His voice builds to a painful, shrieking wail amidst a cacophony of distortion and crashing cymbals, a gospel choir echoing his emotional fury in the background.

*Meat* contains some pretty serious angst, but if literally screaming out all your failed relationship woes doesn't work as some kind of catharsis, I'm not sure what will. If you're ready to transition from the weepy, ice cream-eating phase of your break-up to the pissed off, fire-starting stage, *Meat* will provide the necessary soundtrack.



## albumreview

**Yukon Blonde**  
*Yukon Blonde*  
Nevado Records/Bumstead

ELLIOT GOODINE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

On their self-titled debut, Yukon Blonde do positive things for the reputation of pop-infused indie rock. The B.C. band, formerly known as Alphababy, has put together an impressive 10-song collection. Sharp songwriting and impeccable musicianship put these guys a step ahead of most indie bands.

The songs have a decidedly crisp

pop sound. The clean guitar sound and the precise vocal harmonies make it the sort of record that begs to be blasted from a convertible on a sunny day.

The band draws on diverse influences, bringing to mind Abbey Road-era Beatles with their melodic moves (opening track, "Rather Be With You") and cool keyboard sounds à la

The Cure ("Blood Cops" and "Kumino Song"). "Wind Blows" sounds like it could be a track on the next Fleet Foxes record, with lush harmonies overtop of chiming guitars and a pulsing drumbeat. Sometimes Yukon Blonde brings to mind a slightly more radio-friendly version of Pavement. Hipsters rejoice.

My only complaint about the record is that some of the arrangements are a bit flabby. The band jams every song into the three-and-a-half to five-minute range, despite the fact that the catchier numbers would have benefitted from brevity. However, this sin is minor and pardonable.

Yukon Blonde seem like a welcome addition for fans of the indie pop niche. Keep an eye on these guys and their golden-blonde songs.

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(Rm 3-04 SUB) to chat with our A&E editor.

First come, first served before 3pm Friday, Feb 5.

SAT  
FEB  
6

**Literary Saloon** Doors 7pm, \$5 Cover.

Join us for a PO'd, pugnacious panel discussion on CBC's Canada Reads.  
Calm down afterwards with a wine tasting, pairing wines with the  
Canada Reads book choices.

THRS  
FEB  
11

**Git 'yer Heart Pumpin'**

A Dance party to Fight away the Valentine's blues  
Proceeds support Heart of the City Festival. An evening of Edmonton  
Musicians, Local DJs, Dancing, Silent Auction, and Fun.  
Doors 8pm. Tickets \$10 at the door.

FRI  
FEB  
12

**Stem Cell**

Sub Terranean Edmonton Media Arts Festival presents

Artist's Talk with **Daniel Barrow** FREE @ 2pm.

**EATery Brunch** noon-3pm (regular EATery prices).

SAT  
FEB  
13

All the details at the ARTery website & events calendar:  
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# International Week at

Monday (Feb. 1)      Tuesday (Feb. 2)

**MONDAY  
NOON KEYNOTE:  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT,  
CREATING LASTING CHANGE**  
Donna Brazile

Explore the importance of inclusive political processes and grassroots organizing in tackling challenges both local and global. Advocate, activist and outspoken political commentator, she has worked on every U.S. presidential campaign from 1976 through 2000, when she served as campaign manager for former Vice President Al Gore, becoming the first African-American woman to manage a presidential campaign.

**MONDAY FILM  
& DISCUSSION: GOOD  
MORNING KANDAHAR**  
Brigadier-General John Vance  
(Department of National Defense), recently returned from Afghanistan, and Rhonda Gossen  
(Canadian International Development Agency)

Join members of the local community to screen and discuss a National Film Board film that gives voice to the dilemmas felt by Afghans around the world grappling with events in their homeland.

**MONDAY EVENING:  
CANADA'S FUTURE ROLE  
IN THE WORLD**  
Pierre Blais, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva; Charles Parker, Regional Director for CIDA; Shauria Sylvester, Director of Canada's World

Join our panellists for a lively town hall styled session.

**TUESDAY  
EVENING:  
A CANADIAN ARCTIC  
STRATEGY**  
Dr. Franklyn Griffiths, Co-Chair of the Arctic Council Panel

How can the Arctic emerge as a zone of cooperation between nations?

**WEDNESDAY  
VIDEO ADDRESS:  
BEYOND COPENHAGEN**  
Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Join this discussion on how to address climate change with special focus on challenges for developing countries and the need for effective climate governance.

**WEDNESDAY  
EVENING:  
WORLD POVERTY:  
EXPLANATIONS,  
RESPONSIBILITIES,  
REFORMS**  
Dr. Thomas Pogge, Yale University

Learn about the widening gap between rich and poor and what needs to be done to eradicate severe poverty.

- 10:00 AM
- 10:30 AM
- 11:00 AM
- 11:30 AM
- 12:00 NOON
- 12:30 PM
- 1:00 PM
- 1:30 PM
- 2:00 PM
- 2:30 PM
- 3:00 PM
- 3:30 PM
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- 7:00 PM
- 7:30 PM
- 8:00 PM
- 8:30 PM

 Keynote Address by Donna Brazile C1	Canada in Afghanistan C4		 Our Future as Global Citizens E3		Towards Collaborative Solutions A2			
	Global Movement A3		 Women Forefront Scientists A2					
	Seeds of Change C3				Student Movements E1		Canada's World D	
	Water Management C1		Climate Change and Global Poverty D					
The Underclass of 2010 E1		Development Assistance and You C3		Walking Together/ Nook's Pudding G		The Greatest Silence C1		
Film: Good Morning Kandahar C2				Film: CBQM C2				
								
Canada's Future Role in the World C2				Canadian Arctic Strategy C2				





# a Glance

**Wednesday** (Feb. 3) **Thursday** (Feb. 4) **Friday** (Feb. 5)

Nuclear Power E1	China and the West E2	Report from Copen- hagen C4				Cell Phones and Internet A2	
Beyond Copenhagen C1	Learning our Way E2		Health Care Reform E1	Immigra- tion, Social Change, Anti-Racism I	2010 Resource Folk A		The Future of Activism C3
Protest or Expropriation? I	To Boldly Flow G					Global Health Photo Exhibit A	
Aging World E1	Revolutionary Librarians E2	Aboriginal Spiritual Journey E1	Organizing for the Common Good E1			Poetic Justice A2	Ethical Consumer Revolution A3
						India: The Next Generation E1	Int'l Solidarity Movements C1
Into the Light C3	Pandemics Debate D	Food Sovereignty E1	Taking Peace to the Streets I		Canada's Global Energy Development A2	Cell Phones and War in Congo C3	
	Creative (Net)works I					Creating Global Citizens C1	
	The Penguin Revolution E1						I-Week Quiz B
Goza, West Bank, Lebanon C3	Traditional vs. Modern Aid E1	Alberta's Global Carbon Capture A2	Volunteering Abroad E1		Fight for 5 C3		
Film: Fierce Light C2		Film: Inside the Pass C2	To Boldly Develop Your Career A4		Film: Buried at Sea C2		
World Poverty C2		When Worlds Collide C2			I-Week Concert: Celebrate with Susan Aglukark		

## Venues

- A** Students' Union Building (SUB)
  - A1 SUB – Myer Horowitz Theatre
  - A2 SUB – Dinwoodie Lounge
  - A3 SUB – SUB Stage
  - A4 SUB – 2-100 (CAPS)
- B** HUB Community Centre
- C** TELUS Centre
  - C1 TELUS 134
  - C2 TELUS 150
  - C3 TELUS 236/238
  - C4 TELUS 145
- D** Tory Building (Basement) TB-81
- E** Education
  - E1 Education South 377
  - E2 Education South 164
  - E3 Education North KIVA (2-103)
- F** Rutherford Library
- G** International Centre Lobby
- H** KATZ Atrium
- I** I-House Meeting Room

**THURSDAY  
EVENING PANEL:  
WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE  
- ETHICS AND THE GLOBAL  
PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

Lorne Babiuk, U of A VP Research; Colin Soskolne, Professor of Epidemiology, U of A School of Public Health; James Talbot, Senior Provincial Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services

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**FRIDAY**  
**FEATURE: CELL**  
**PHONES AND INTERNET:**  
**LUXURIES OR TOOLS FOR**  
**DEVELOPMENT?**

Local experts will link live to Kwara State University in Nigeria to gain perspectives about how telecommunication technology is transforming developing countries and the prospect for universal access to cell phones and the Internet.

**FRIDAY  
CONCERT: CELEBRATE  
WITH SUSAN AGLUKARK**

*Proceeds will be used to establish the Susan Aglukark  
Aboriginal Award Fund*

Blending the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary arrangements Susan tells the stories of her people; the Inuit of Arctic Canada through her award winning music. With special guest Cris Derksen and her magic cello mixing traditional and contemporary sounds in captivating melodies and steadfast beatlines.

**FRIDAY  
FEATURE:  
POETIC JUSTICE**

His Excellency Iyorwuese Hagher,  
Nigeria's High Commissioner  
to Canada

Learn about how poetry, theatre and music can contribute to social change, focusing on issues such as poverty, corruption, lack of democracy, and militarism.



## Varsity Stars

Varsity Stars is a weekly look at the very best performances by U of A athletes over the past weekend. Selections are based on the recommendations of our dedicated Gateway Sports Staff.



**KEN OTIENO**

Combined for 25 rebounds and 35 points over the weekend.



**EMILY BOLDUC**

Scored a combined 28 points over two games against Brandon.



**CHAD KLASSEN**

Picked up a hat-trick Saturday night against Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Photographs supplied by Andy Devlin/LA Media

# Bears hoopsters split series against Bobcats to keep playoff hopes alive

NATHAN LIEWICKI  
Sports Staff

Down by 16 points, the Golden Bears basketball squad roared back for a 71-67 win on Senior Night to salvage a series split with the Brandon Bobcats, and in the process stay in the playoff picture.

As the first half of Saturday's game came to a close, it didn't look like the Bears had enough in the tank to overcome the 'Cats and their dynamic duo of Dany Charlery and Kyle Vince, especially after fifth-year senior Harvey Bradford left the game less than two minutes in with an upper body injury.

"When Harvey went down we seemed to lose our step. He told me he couldn't lift his arm and I told the guys they had to make up the deficit to make the night special for Harvey," head coach Greg Francis explained. "I'm just glad he had a monster game Friday, but he has really taken the young guys under his wing."

Even though Bradford suffered an injury, fellow fifth-year senior Jeff Stork came off the bench and made a big impact for the Bears. Stork made turnaround jumpers on consecutive offensive possessions late in the fourth quarter to draw Alberta even with the Bobcats.

"We needed Jeff's two clutch buckets, but he was also dominant inside. He snared a couple of key rebounds and played huge for us, and I'm just so happy for him," Francis said.

A significant factor in the Bears' improved play Saturday night was their limited number of turnovers. They committed 28 turnovers in Friday's demoralizing 88-85 double-overtime loss, but only gave the ball away 11 times on Saturday. In addition, they out-rebounded the Brandon both nights, edging out the 'Cats by 10 on Saturday.

A change in offensive tactics during Saturday's second half was also a key for the Bears. They shot less than 30 per cent from the floor in the first half, including going only 2-of-14 from three-point land, but started to pound the ball inside in the second half, which generated easy shots and opportunities at the free-throw line.

Nonetheless, the Bears would've had no shot at winning Saturday's game if not for the impressive play of Francis' fantastic freshmen pair, Jordan Baker and Kenny Otieno. Baker tallied 19 points



PETE YEE

**SCRAPPY 'CATS** Fifth-year senior Harvey Bradford (right) takes on Brandon's dynamic scorer and fellow fifth-year Dany Charlery, as the Bears fell Friday night in double-overtime to the Bobcats 88-85.

and 13 rebounds, while Otieno led the Bears with 14 boards and chipped in with 18 points. Both players also recorded double-doubles in Friday night's loss.

"Kenny and Jordan are unbelievable players and they're going to be the backbone of our program for years to come," Francis said.

Another big difference between Friday and Saturday's games was the Bears' ability to contain Charlery, one of Canada West's most prolific offensive talents. He blitzed the Bears for 34

points in Friday's captivating double-OT game, but was held to 19 points on Saturday, including going 0-of-8 from downtown.

"I was very proud of our man defense on Saturday and very I'm proud that my guys came out to fighting against Brandon," Francis asserted.

The Bears close out the regular season next weekend against Manitoba needing a sweep to have any shot at their 24th consecutive playoff appearance.

# Baker making major impact in rookie campaign with Basket-Bears

NATHAN LIEWICKI  
Sports Staff

Jordan Baker may be a freshman on paper, but he sure hasn't played like one.

Rather, the Harry Ainlay High School product has played an instrumental role all season on a very young Bears basketball squad, and has become the go-to guy whenever he's on the floor. Despite Alberta's inconsistency this season, Baker — who has transitioned from a power forward in high school to a point guard in university — has already turned out to be a terrific recruit for rookie head coach Greg Francis.

And the results are speaking for themselves: in his first year of eligibility, the youngster has started every game, leading the Bears in scoring and rebounding with 13.4 points and 9.0 rebounds per game.

"Jordan is probably the best first-year basketball player in the country and his play this season has been unbelievable. He's so young and crazy, but he comes to practice and games focused everyday," Francis asserts.

Currently an Arts student, Baker has applied for admission into the School of Business and is interested in pursuing marketing as his specialization. In the future, he hopes that the chance to forge a business career with Basketball Canada

may present itself.

"Basketball is a huge part of my life, so hopefully I can get into something in the business world that involves basketball because I want to give back to the game," Baker states.

**"Jordan is probably the best first-year basketball player in the country and his play this season has been unbelievable. He's so young and crazy, but he comes to practice and games focused everyday."**

GREG FRANCIS  
BEARS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

When asked why he decided to stay at home and attend the University of Alberta instead of attending a school abroad, Baker says, "Greg Francis coming here was a huge factor into my decision. I also felt that along with the other core group of incoming players, we could build a successful program over the coming years."

Baker is no stranger to the U of A, having grown up around the Main Gym thanks to

his mother Trix, who coached the Pandas basketball squad for years and now works as the Athletics department's head of sponsorship and development.

Although he's just a first-year player, Jordan has played with patience and poise well beyond his years, and he recalls an individual goal session he had with Francis before the season began. During that sit down, he remembers writing "maturity" on the back of the goal sheet.

"Maturity is a huge thing and that's what coach has been trying to instill in me this year and not play like a first-year who commits lots of stupid turnovers. Showing maturity on the basketball court will carry over into maturity in life," Baker explains.

When asked what his favourite moment to this point in the season has been, Baker states that it was after a 39-point defeat at the hands of the Saskatchewan Huskies on November 27 at home.

"When I came into the locker room after that game, the guys were really disappointed, but I still saw the fire in everyone's eyes. We came out the next night and won, and thus showed how much character our team has," Baker notes.

Despite being only a rookie, Baker has shown great promise this season and as his game continues to blossom, he's poised to become a dominant player in Canada West over the coming years.



PETE YEE

**FIRST-CLASS FRESHMEN** The Bears' Jordan Baker (right), has been one of the nation's best rookies with a 13.4 point per game average.



# Basketball Pandas trounce Bobcats to hold onto second place

Alberta picks up a pair of 48-point victories over Brandon to clinch playoff berth

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Editor

The end result was never in question for the Basketball Pandas this weekend, as they extended their winning streak to seven games with a pair of dominating victories over the visiting Brandon Bobcats.

The Pandas came out in both contests and thoroughly outplayed the 'Cats, with wins of 87-39 and 85-37 — their two largest margins of victory this season. With the sweep, Alberta clinched a playoff berth and solidified their second-place standing in Canada West's Prairie Division, as the Green and Gold took a major step towards securing a home playoff date.

Heading into the weekend against the cellar-dwelling Bobcats, who came into the series sporting the conference's second-worst record at 2-14, the Pandas were coming off four consecutive road victories and were looking to carry their winning ways back to their home floor at the Main Gym. The number-eight ranked Pandas did just that, as they handled the Bobcats with relative ease from the first tip

Friday night, until the final buzzer Saturday.

Friday night, the Pandas rushed out to a 34-10 lead at the half and didn't look back, playing stifling defence to go along with a commanding offensive outing en route to their largest win of the season. In the rematch, it was more of the same for head coach Scott Edwards' crew, as the Pandas secured another 48-point victory.

Emily Bolduc lead the way offensively with 16 points, adding another 12 on Saturday night in a contest that saw every Panda score at least a point — for Bolduc, though, the defensive performance by her team over the weekend was the key.

"We're really trying to wrap up towards playoffs by playing some solid defence, so it was good to come out and play like this at home — it was great especially since these were our last home games of the regular season," Bolduc said.

As potent as the offence was all weekend long, it was the defence that exposed Brandon's weaknesses, as Alberta contested every shot and gave the Bobcats only a handful of

open looks over the course of the two games.

"We needed to set a goal for ourselves defensively in every quarter, and it's tough to play in the games for either team when the score gets really wide quickly. I was really proud of our kids both nights, especially tonight in the second half, for staying consistent with their effort," Edwards explained after Saturday night's game.

For the Pandas, who have been stellar since the break, they're playing their best basketball of the year at just the right time as they conclude the regular season next weekend against the Manitoba Bisons in Winnipeg. Those matchups against the Herd are particularly significant as the Pandas have given themselves the opportunity to control whether or not they'll be hosting a playoff series.

"We knew that we had to kind of win out this term and finish off with nine wins this term to get us to second, and our kids have been very proud of the opportunity to give themselves a chance. Now we're two wins away and have to go on the road to get it done," Edwards said.



PETE YEE

**OBEDIENT BOBCATS** The Pandas' Josephine Peacock pulled down double-digit rebounds both Friday and Saturday night against Brandon in a pair of Alberta wins.

## BY THE NUMBERS

1

Only Jyla Bousquet scored in double-digits over the weekend for Brandon, with 12 points Saturday night.

2

Alberta holds a two-game lead over Saskatchewan in the standings, with a playoff home date still up for grabs.

27

Number of field goals made by the Pandas in both Friday and Saturday night's games against the 'Cats.



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## THIS WEEK'S SPORTS FLOP



Rex Ryan, head coach of the NFL's New York Jets is apparently a big fan of MMA. While watching a thrilling MMA event at the Bank Atlantic Center in South Florida this past weekend, Ryan flipped the bird to the crowd with a big smile on his face after being booed by the crowd of pro Dolphins fans.


If you're outraged by Ryan's latest antics, feel free to come to a sports meeting every Thursday on the third floor of SUB at 4 p.m.

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Meetings on Wednesdays at 5:30pm in SUB 3-04.

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The Gateway is giving away double-guest passes to an advance screening of *Dear John* on Wednesday February 3rd at 7 p.m. at Scotiabank Theatre (WEM).

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## College coaching carousel can stay stateside

Constant coaching changes in American college sports hurts student athletes



BREN  
CARGILL

Sports  
Commentary

One of the lessons we're all taught growing up is that when you sign a contract to work for someone, you honour the piece of paper you just put your signature on. If you did have to leave your employer, you certainly didn't stab them in the back on your way out the door — apparently American collegiate coaches didn't get the memo.

Newly minted USC football coach Lane Kiffin's recent transfer is a prime example of the every-man-for-himself nature of college coaching south of the border. After signing a six-year contract to be the head coach of the University of Tennessee Volunteers football team in December 2008, he walked out on the school a little more than a year after signing on to take the position at Southern California — which, coincidentally enough, was left vacated by Pete Carroll, who left for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks in January.

Students and other Tennessee fans were up in arms, sparking disturbances across campus. During Kiffin's exit meetings with his players — many of whom he'd personally recruited under the premise that he'd be with them every step of the way through their college careers — several of them had to be physically restrained from going after Kiffin.

These feelings of betrayal have been

felt across many U.S. college campuses in recent years. Brian Kelly left his Cincinnati Bearcats football team two weeks before they got clobbered by the Florida Gators in the Sugar Bowl, which had been dubbed the biggest game in Bearcats football history.

Rich Rodriguez is another example of a coach jumping ship for a new job, after he left West Virginia in 2007 just four months after signing a long-term contract to take the head coach position at Michigan. Just to show that this attitude is not monopolized by football coaches, basketball coach John Calipari has left not one, but two universities in the lurch (University of Massachusetts and Memphis University) to take cushier jobs elsewhere.

**One of the things that makes Canadian university sport great is that there hasn't been that cut-throat lack of loyalty among coaches and administration.**

On top of leaving the school that they're employed with, many of these coaches have tried to — in some cases, successfully — convince players already committed to their prior school to come with them, setting back their former schools even further. The cut-throat nature of American university sports and the money involved has led to coaches treating contracts like used paper towel, and respect for anything

except the almighty dollar and the prestige of a big program is almost non-existent.

For a long time, this was simply an American practice that had no place in Canadian varsity sports and never came north of the border. All that changed after current University of Calgary Dinos football head coach Blake Nill left Saint Mary's University — who he'd led to two Vanier Cups — after the 2005 season. When Nill, a former Dino himself, decided to take over the reigns for his alma mater starting in 2006, people seemed to understand his desire to go back to his old school.

On the other hand, something many didn't like was Nill's penchant for suddenly having players that he'd recruited to SMU jumping ship to Calgary, most notably this past year's Hec Crighton Trophy winner Erik Glavic, who had previously won the award at SMU in 2007.

These issues were brought back to the forefront at the Uteck Bowl last fall as the Dinos met the Saint Mary's Huskies for the chance to go to the Vanier Cup. Once good friends, Nill and SMU head coach Steve Sumarah were so frosty towards each other during the game's press conference that the media probably had to wear long johns to the survive the frigid atmosphere created between the two.

One of the things that makes Canadian university sports great is that there hasn't been that cut throat lack of loyalty among coaches and administration. Here's to hoping that Canadian university sport doesn't go down the dangerous road of its American cousins, as their coaching carousel sends all the wrong signals to athletes.

## Tiger-less PGA Tour needs superstar to return



NATHAN  
LIEWICKI

Sports  
Commentary

Remember the impossible chip-shot Tiger Woods holed for birdie at the 16th hole of the 2005 Masters? The one where his golf ball hung on the lip of the cup and the Nike swoosh smiled elegantly at television audiences for eternity?

If you were one of the few people who didn't see Tiger make that phenomenal shot, I pray to God you tuned in to watch him survive 91 holes, including an 18-hole playoff against journeyman Rocco Mediate, to win the 2008 U.S. Open. His performance at Torrey Pines that Father's Day weekend is, and will remain, one of the most memorable sequences of events in PGA Tour history.

Unfortunately for golf fans, Tiger was not at Torrey Pines for last weekend's Farmers Insurance Open, an event which usually serves as his PGA Tour season opener, and one that he has won six previous times. Instead, the world number-one is reported to still be at the Pine Grove Behavioural Health and Addiction Services clinic in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in an attempt to put a clamp on his sex addiction.

The secret double life Woods was living remains a mystery to sports fans and media personnel alike, but it's obvious that his decision to take an indefinite leave of absence from professional golf has already started to have a

negative effect on the game.

Scrambling to retain current sponsors and find new ones for Tour events as a result of the recent global economic slump, the PGA Tour will undoubtedly suffer financially as long as Tiger remains on the sidelines. Ticket and merchandise sales will drop at events he usually competes in. Also, television ratings are certain to tumble as long as golf's biggest draw is out of action.

**Despite the mixed reactions and statements that have been issued by Tour players, they all know that that Tiger is golf's most recognizable figure on and off the course.**

More important than drops in ticket sales and smaller audiences, however, is the effect Tiger's absence will have on tournament charities. The PGA Tour is the most charitable of all professional sports, having raised nearly \$1.5 billion for charity. Tiger's involvement with charities associated with events he usually plays in will see drop-offs in charitable dollars raised because of his absence.

Although his absence from the PGA Tour is only one week deep, in an interview prior to round one of the Farmers Insurance Open, world number-two Phil Mickelson said golf

needs Tiger back and that "it's important for him to come back and be a part of the sport." Whether he likes it or not, Mickelson will take over as the top media attraction during Woods' absence.

Nevertheless, not all Tour professionals have been publicly supportive of Tiger's troubles. Geoff Ogilvy hopes Tiger publicly apologizes before returning to the links, while Sweden's Jesper Parnevik — who introduced Tiger to his wife Elin — has gone a few steps further, saying that he has "lost all respect" for Woods.

Despite the mixed reactions and statements that have been issued by Tour players, they all know that Tiger is golf's most recognizable figure on and off the course. He's done so much to increase international interest in the game over the last dozen years, including being an ambassador for the acceptance of golf as an Olympic sport in 2016.

The uncovering of Woods' recent infidelities have tainted his image of perfection and, to some extent, the image of the PGA Tour. However, when Tiger returns to the Tour, be it at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship, the Arnold Palmer Invitational, The Masters, or at a later event, I hope he shows the same uncanny ability he always has to make the critical shots when it matters most.

Despite his recent troubles, Tiger deserves a second chance to prove he is a changed man, and thus the PGA Tour, its members, and golf fans from every corner of the globe should welcome him back not only because he is the world's finest athlete, but because Tiger Woods is the game of golf.



# Fear not, Oilers fans — Hollywood will come through and save you



JONN  
KMECH

Sports  
Commentary

It would be an understatement right now to say that the Oilers are down on their luck. They're last place in the league. They've won two games in their last 22 appearances. They did manage a win last night against Carolina to snap a 13-game winless skid, but still remain in the NHL's basement. However, if there's one thing I've learned from Hollywood sports movies, it's that the night is always darkest before the dawn. Since the Oilers are basically the Bad News Bears of the NHL right now, I think they could learn a thing or two from those silver-screen teams from the past about how to get out of this mess just in time to win the Stanley Cup.

Back in the summer, the Oilers were just a ragtag group of lovable misfits who hadn't been picked by any other teams and didn't have a coach. Then Pat Quinn was brought in to give them some guidance and act as a father figure. Quinn was a strict taskmaster and initially didn't get along with his young, plucky ragamuffins, throwing his hands up in the air after several brutal losses. But they all knew that deep down, he had a heart of gold and only wanted the team to succeed. This soon inspired confidence in them and

they started to win back in November. But after the team's all-stars got injured, the Oilers went into a losing skid and have been mired in failure for months. As Shawn Horcoff said, a few days ago, "We just want to win one game."

I chalk these problems up to an inability to follow the formula. Sure, Hemsky is out. Khabibulin is out. But the star players always get injured. What the Oilers have yet to do is have a touching emotional scene where they all visit their fallen comrades in their hospital beds and tearfully promise to win one for the gipper (or The Bulin Wall, in this case). At that point, all former rivalries are forgotten, and they can band together to overcome insurmountable odds and win the state championship. Or is what I've heard true — do the Oilers not remember the Titans?

Other questions demand to be asked. How often is Pat Quinn giving rousing motivational speeches while triumphant music plays in the background when the team is down after two periods? If not, how can anyone expect them to learn a valuable lesson about determination and teamwork in time to score a buzzer-beating, game-winning goal? As well, have the Oilers at least attempted to incorporate the Flying V or the concept of knucklepucks into their game plan? Or, failing that, could they possibly sign Charlie Sheen as their loose cannon ringer, the Wild Thing? At this point, with their offensive woes, all options should be on the table.

Perhaps most importantly, who will be the Oilers' Rudy? Who will be the

man to show the team that it is not the size of your body that matters, but the size of your heart? My money is on Zack Stortini, who has recently been riding the pine, but will at some point (at least in my mind) beg Pat Quinn to "just let me play, coach." The irascible gum-chewing Quinn will, albeit reluctantly, give Stortini one shot to get out there and do something, since they're probably going to lose anyways. Stortini will respond by making an incredible and inspirational play, valiantly punching the face of his closest competitor (which is like sacking the quarterback, I suppose), an act that will somehow win the big game for the Oil. Stortini will get hoisted onto the shoulders of Horcoff and captain Ethan Moreau as the team's unlikely saviour and carried off the ice in a heartfelt, sentimental moment, before Ron MacLean announces that immediately after the game, a celebrating Stortini got into a fatal crash when his car accidentally drove off a cliff, making the triumphant victory poignant and bittersweet.

But don't fret, depressed Oilers fans. The light is at the end of the tunnel, as the Stortini victory will likely propel the courageous, scrappy heroes into a February-long montage sequence where they'll finally get on a winning streak, while discovering the true meaning of friendship along the way. Hopefully, that will allow them to prove themselves just in time for a redemptive Game 7 Stanley Cup Final rematch against the evil, black-hearted team from Iceland.

## sportsshorts

Compiled by Evan Daum

### Bears Hockey

Travelling to Winnipeg this past weekend in search of clinching first place in the conference, the number-two ranked Golden Bears split their two-game set against the Manitoba Bisons.

Friday night saw the Bears trailing 3-1 heading into the third period before the Green and Gold scored a trio of unanswered goals, including the game-winning goal off the stick of Eric Hunter with only 39 seconds remaining, to give Alberta the 4-3 win.

Saturday night, the Bears were in search of the sweep, but again fell behind the Herd as Manitoba took a 2-0 lead less than six minutes into the contest. For the Bears, it was all Chad Klassen offensively, as he scored a pair of power play markers to go with a short-handed goal to record his third hat-trick of the season, and second against Manitoba. That wouldn't be enough for Alberta, however, as the Bisons went onto a 4-3 win.

The Bears return home this weekend for two games against the suddenly play-off-hungry Lethbridge Pronghorns.

### Pandas Volleyball

It was a disappointing trip to Western Manitoba for head coach Laurie Eisler and her Pandas volleyball squad this weekend, as they dropped both contests to the Brandon Bobcats.

In the opener of the two-game series Friday night in the Wheat City, the Bobcats handed the Pandas their fifth regular season loss of the season in a 3-1 'Cats victory. Tiffany Proudfoot continued her stellar season, leading all players with 18 kills in the four-set contest.

Looking to salvage a split Saturday night, Alberta came out and won the first two sets, and looked poised to get out of town with at least a win. That wouldn't come to fruition, however, as the Bobcats made an improbable comeback, winning the last three sets of the match to secure the 3-2 win and sweep the series.

The Pandas will look to regroup next weekend in their final regular season weekend when they host the number-one team in the nation, the UBC Thunderbirds.

### Bears Volleyball

The Volley-Bears also headed to Brandon this weekend to take on the Bobcats, picking up a split in their two-game series.

Like their female counterparts, the Bears dropped the first game of the weekend 3-1. Spencer Leiske lead the Bears in the loss with 14 kills, while Erik Mattson had 16 digs for the Green and Gold.

Saturday night saw the Bears and Bobcats battle to a five-set thriller like the ladies who took the floor before them. Alberta fell behind 2-0, and just narrowly escaped defeat in the third set by pulling out a huge 32-30 third-set win to extend the game. But the Bears made no mistake with their second chance, winning the final two sets to take the game 3-2.

### Ringette

The U of A Ringette team hosted their charitfirst annual Ringette Scores on Cancer charity event over the weekend at West Edmonton Mall, raising \$55,000 for the Cross Cancer Institute.

As part of the event, the U of A ringette squad took on a media/celebrity team that included the likes of former NHLers Louie DeBrusk and Rob Brown. The U of A team came away with the win in a shootout in front of a spirited crowd at the Ice Palace.

# Don't worry, you're not too late.

The Gateway welcomes volunteers all year long.

Section meetings are held in the Gateway offices: Room 3-04, SUB.

Arts & Entertainment:  
Tuesdays at 4pm

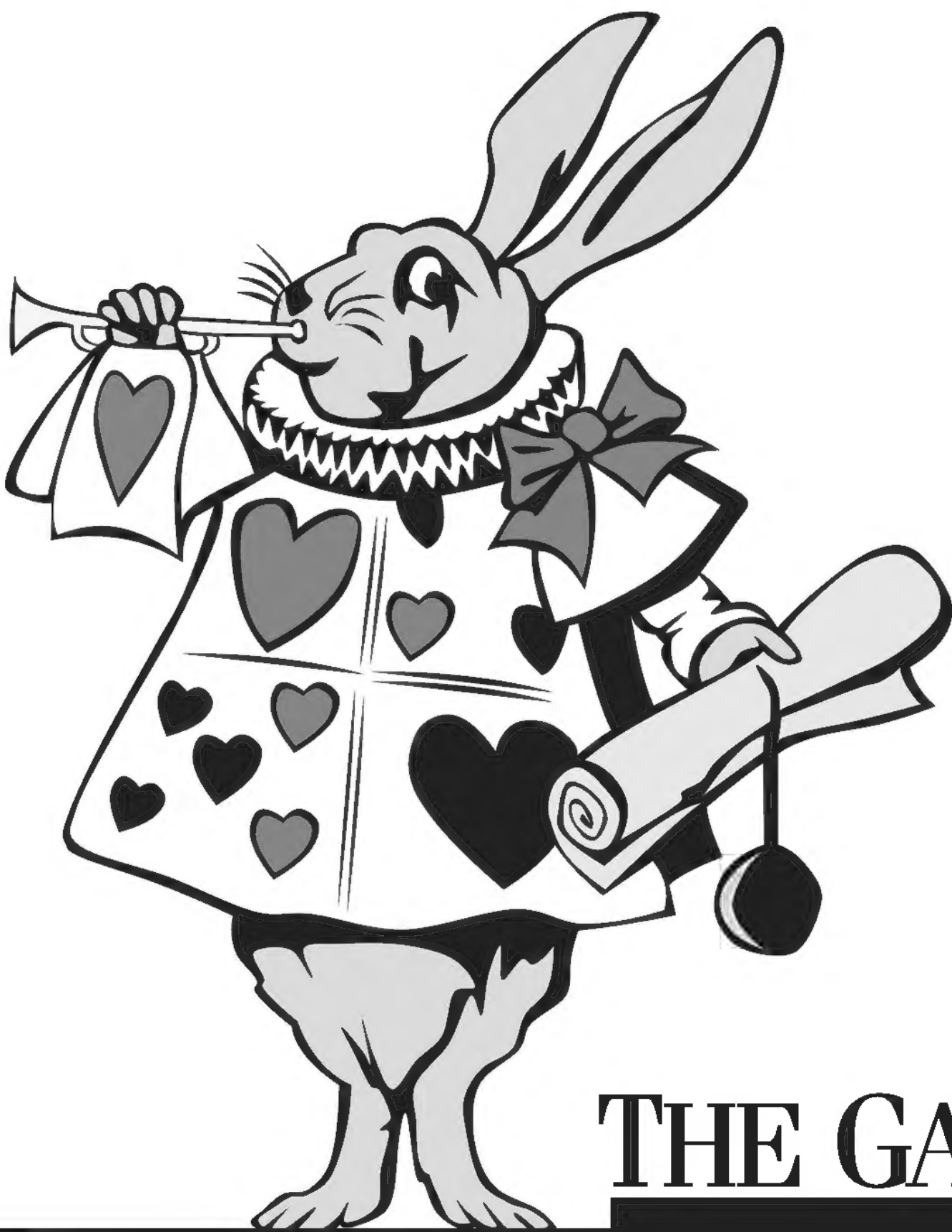
Opinion:  
Tuesdays at 5pm

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Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Sports:  
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News:  
Fridays at 3pm

Photo:  
Fridays at 4pm



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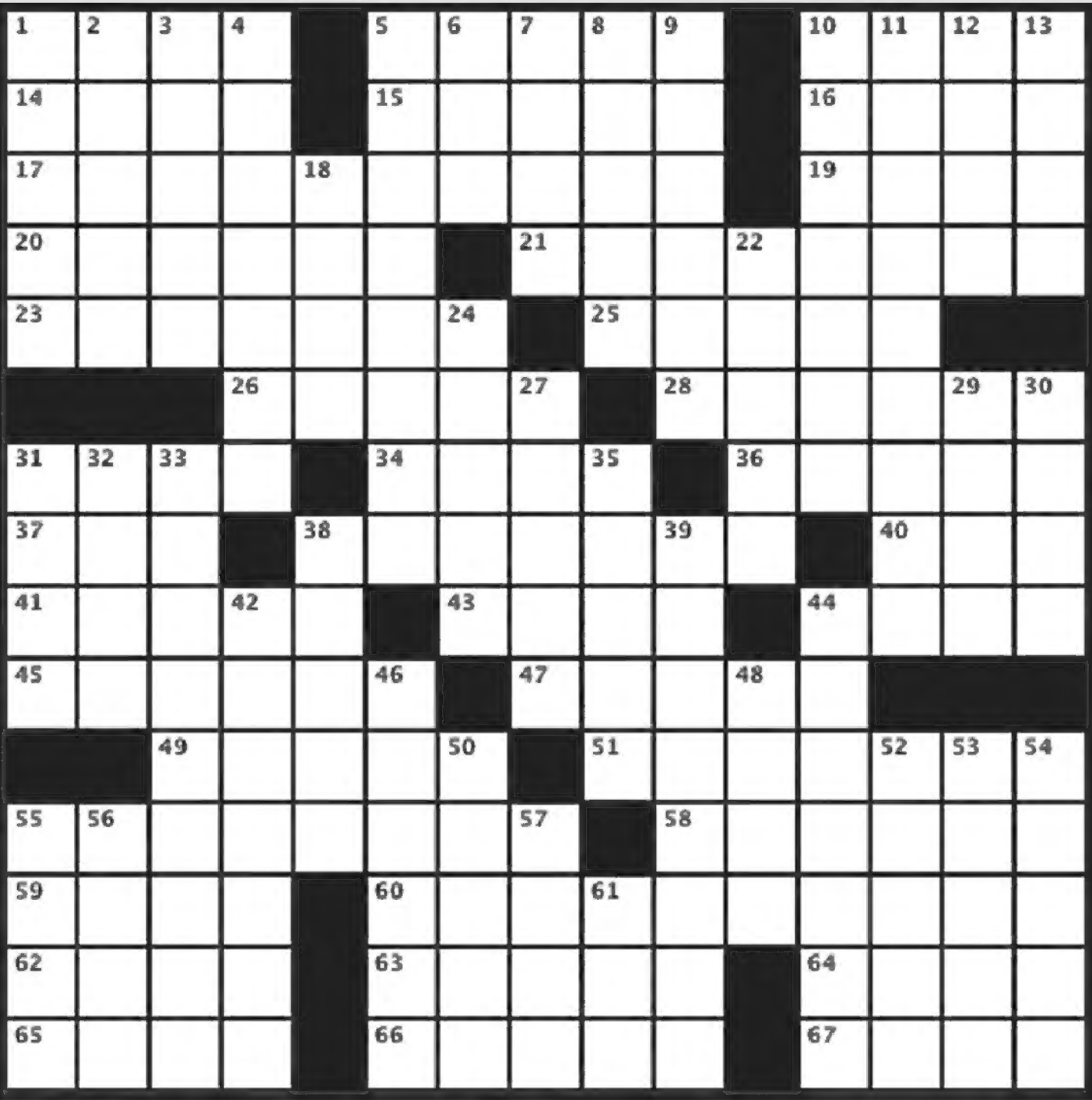
Sportsbot3000—though newly equipped with a state-of-the-art robo-moustache—has proven obsolete by the Gateway's Sports Editor Evan Daum. As a result we at the Gateway are selling our once psuedo-coworker to the highest bidder. Build from the finest in dented paint cans and sharpie faces Sportsbot3000 is sure to be a delightful addition to anyone's home, be it as a child's toy or a charming dining room table centerpiece. Call 780-492-6652 to make an offer.



SPIN RIGHT ROUND Breakdancers entertain student lunchgoers in SUB as part of the Helping Hands for Haiti's variety show fundraiser.

AARON YEO

crossword



The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at [www.thegatewayonline.ca](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca) Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission

Across

- 1. Curse
- 5. Lucid
- 10. Celestial body
- 14. *East of Eden* director Kazan
- 15. Lofty nest
- 16. Fork feature
- 17. Writing desk
- 19. Bibliography abbr.
- 20. Jumpy
- 21. Harshness
- 23. Casserole dish
- 25. Satan
- 26. Grammarian's topic
- 28. Yellowish colour
- 31. Bit of gossip
- 34. Milk source
- 36. "Til \_\_\_\_\_ do us part"
- 37. 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 38. Permanently attached, to a zoologist
- 40. Acapulco aunt

- 41. Up
- 43. Actress Hatcher
- 44. Denomination
- 45. Ski lodge
- 47. Geneva's lake
- 49. Forest makeup
- 51. Pert. to the fingers
- 55. Clerisy
- 58. Volcanic material
- 59. Arthur Ashe's alma mater
- 60. Having united carpels
- 62. Turned right
- 63. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- 64. Dresden's river
- 65. Swirl
- 66. Sordid
- 67. Drop of water expelled by the eye

Down

- 1. Stupefy with drink
- 2. Coeur d' \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. More pleasant
- 4. Membrane in the ear canal
- 5. Link together
- 6. Meadow
- 7. Goddess and sister of Ares in Greek mythology
- 8. Broadcast

- 9. *Speed* star
- 10. Aseptic
- 11. Excite agreeably
- 12. Med school subj.
- 13. Be dependent
- 18. Sponsorship
- 22. Circumvent
- 24. Discharge
- 27. Art supporter
- 29. Auricular
- 30. Come again?
- 31. Apple product
- 32. ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 33. Beset by conflict
- 35. Exhausted
- 38. Guide
- 39. Serving as a limit
- 42. Now
- 44. Fragment
- 46. Tantalizes
- 48. Antiquing agent
- 50. Genre
- 52. Fulcrum for an oar
- 53. Island off Venezuela
- 54. Coherent light beam
- 55. Sled
- 56. Chilled
- 57. Swenson of "Benson"
- 61. Engine part



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